CROWS NEST, QUEENSLAND

Crows Nest was declared a town in 1876.Martin Sondergeld arrived in 1856.

Crows Nest Post Office opened on 1 July 1878.  A [branch railway line](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crows_Nest_railway_line) from Toowoomba, which serviced a number of sawmills and a dairying district, was finished in 1886.

**Crows Nest** is a town in the [Darling Downs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darling_Downs) region of [Queensland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queensland), [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia). The town is located on the [New England Highway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_England_Highway), 158 kilometres (98 mi) from the state capital, [Brisbane](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brisbane) and 43 kilometres (27 mi) from the nearby city of [Toowoomba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toowoomba%2C_Queensland). It is within the [Toowoomba Region](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toowoomba_Region) [local government area](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_government_in_Australia). At the [2011 census](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Census_in_Australia#2011), Crows Nest had a population of 1,596.



Jim Crow statue Crows Nest Centenary Park

It is claimed by some that the town was named after an [Aboriginal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_Australians), Jimmy Crow, who gave directions to early European settlers. He lived in a big hollow tree near the police station, which became known as *Crows Nest*. It became a popular overnight camp for the bullock teams hauling timber, which in turn attracted farmers and settlers. A 6-foot 6-inch high statue of Jimmy Crow was unveiled in the Centenary Park at Crows Nest on 12 July 1969 by Minister for Labour and Tourism, [J. D. Herbert](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=John_Herbert_(Australian_politician)&action=edit&redlink=1). The statue was sculpted by [Fred Gardiner](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Fred_Gardiner_(sculptor)&action=edit&redlink=1) of the Tia Art Gallery. The statue was cut from a single block of [Helidon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helidon%2C_Queensland) freestone and weighs over one ton. An 18-foot high hollow tree stump was also moved to Centenary Park and a fig tree was planted on top so the roots could be trained around it to form a living hollow tree. It is believed to be the only memorial in Australia to an Aboriginal person after whom a town was named.

However, it is also claimed that the name derives from the indigenous name for the area *Tookoogandanna*, meaning "the home of crows". Some researchers acknowledge there are many possible origins of the name.

