

# Experience History

## Take a stroll down Commercial Road

To enjoy this walk and experience our past it is suggested that you begin at the Yarram Courthouse, walk down Commercial Road on the right hand side until you reach the Memorial Park, cross the road at the Service Station - once the site of the Strand Hall, and continue walking back to the Courthouse.

A short walk can be terminated on return to the Courthouse or if you wish for a longer stroll continue to the Hospital or even the Old Butter Factory and return via the Mechanics Hall.

As you return to the Courthouse we thank you for spending time in our town and trust you have enjoyed your connection with Yarram's past.

## West Side

### Mechanic's Institute

St Patrick's Day 1886 saw the opening of the Mechanics Hall, with a two day fair. The elite of the town attended the opening and sat in the front seats in evening dress. The hall became the centre for balls, concerts and meetings and also provided a library, run by Mr Kay and Mr Newberry.

### St Mary's Yarram

Foundation stone laid 10<sup>th</sup> October 1915

The brick church building replaced the first Catholic Church a small wooden building in Church Road. With the donation of land from Patrick Brennan and a bequest of £500 from John Moore, Father Stirling was instrumental in the building of a new church. The foundation stone was laid on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1915. During the 1960s the church was completed and the bell tower finished.

### 7. Yarram Butter Factory

Opened 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1861, with souvenir, 1lb packets of Butter. Extensions in 1901 changed the building from a "bungalow edifice to a lofty and commodious building." This was followed by a new building opened on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1909. Today it is now a laboratory for Murray Goulburn.

### Head's Motors

In 1914 Bert Head opened a garage and taxi service. This later became site of the Yarram Holden dealer.

The first business on this site was Albert E. Head's bicycle shop opened in 1902. By 1905 Clyst bicycles were being made on the site. By 1914 the business had become a garage and taxi service with excursions to the beaches, and trips to Sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In recent years this has been the home of the Yarram Holden dealer.

**Site of Bill Collins' Cycle and Radio Shop**  
(Corner of Rodgers St and Commercial Rd)

# Historic Yarram Trails

DESIGN: TIMOTHY SHINE/SPACE/NETAU



### Uniting Church

Formerly the Presbyterian church opened 1<sup>st</sup> March 1896. 1920 saw the addition of a steeple of Oregon and Pine planned by James Nicol, to house the bell he had donated. It became known as St Andrews in 1927. First Uniting church service held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1977.

### Grouse's House

Mr. WC Grouse settled in Yarram in 1886 and a short time later established the largest store in town. He retired in 1939 from his business and died in 1941. The house was built with bricks from Wigg's Brickworks at Alberton.

### Holy Trinity Anglican Church & Hall

The foundation stone was laid on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1918 by Bishop Cranswick of Gippsland, who also officiated at the consecration in May 1924. April 1930 saw the dedication of a new rectory and hall. Further improvements have taken place in 1960 and 1978.

### Yarram Hospital

The will of John Moore left £500 to establish a hospital within 5 years. A fete in 1914 opened the hospital. Over the years several additions and additional facilities have been added, with latest improvements being completed in 2004.



This brochure has been made possible by the **Shire of Wellington** and the **Alberton Project** through the **Community Support Fund**.

With Special thanks to the **Yarram and District Historical Society**, Melva James and Laurie Wood, for access to records and photographs.

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# West Side Commercial Rd

## The Yarram Courthouse

Last hearing 8<sup>th</sup> December 1989

Opened August 18<sup>th</sup> 1908 Tenders were called for a new court house in May 1907. The elegant building, designed by the same architect who built the Heidelberg Court House (Melbourne), was subjected to much criticism as it failed to use local timber and materials. A banquet celebrated its opening on August 13<sup>th</sup> 1908, with the first sitting of the County Court under Mr J.W. Clarke being heard on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Cases continued to be heard until 8<sup>th</sup> December, 1989.

## Wynne's Drapery

Formerly the Yarram Bakery and "Garden of Roses Café."

In 1926 James Wynne purchased the Yarram Bakery from A.T Warren, pulled down the existing bakery, which had operated for 50 years and erected a new building. Jim Princas opened the "Garden of Roses" café on the site - now the "Bush Nook". A banquet and reception room was also included in the building. Today the building houses a clothing and drapery store.

## Centotaph

Unveiled August 10<sup>th</sup> 1921

The Soldier's Memorial used a standard design of H.B. Corban, for a total cost of £550 which included a chain fence. It took until 1929 to record the names of 74 dead soldiers on the memorial.

## Regent Theatre

Opened June 14<sup>th</sup> 1930

The Regent opened on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1930 and was the last purpose built picture theatre in Gippsland. Built for publicans Mr and Mrs A.J. Thompson it cost £20,000. In 1955 it was purchased by the community and then sold to the Shire of Alberton in 1966 for £26,000. Following refurbishments the Regent still serves as the main entertainment centre for the town.

## Yarram Post Office

Established 1888

Designed by E. Scanlon and built in 1888 to serve the needs of a growing town the new post office cost £355. Miss Furnley took on the role of post mistress. A year later home delivery of mail began. From the 1950s changes led to an automatic phone system and extra space requirements which meant taking over the manager's residence.

## Formerly the Bank of New South Wales

Established on this site in 1938

From 1943 to 1947 the bank was closed in Yarram, during which time the Gippsland and Northern Co-operative occupied the building. A merger of banks in March 2000 led to the sale of the premises now occupied by the Yarram Veterinary Service.

## Commercial Hotel

First hotel opened here in 1881. The current building was erected in 1893

In 1881 the hotel opened with William Carder as the first licensee in what was designed as a private home. Following a fire, the new owner Mrs Day had a fine new two storied building erected in 1893.

## Yarram Drapery

A drapery business has been conducted continuously on this site since 1907

This original building was constructed in 1907 for the business of H.H Trounce - Specialist in Drapery & Mercery.

## Lords Corner

Former site of a Coffee Palace -1904  
Later Lords Chemists

Mr H Barlow opened a Coffee Palace on this site in March 1904. Lords Chemist then occupied the site for a number of years. Now the premises of Yarram Real Estate.

## Union Bank

Opened in July 1914

Today this building is used as the Yarram Community Learning Centre for Adult Education

## 1. Duke's Yarram Hotel

A new two storey hotel built in 1910 replaced previous hotels on this site.

After numerous re buildings the present structure was completed in 1910 at a cost of £2,000 and included electricity and telephone access. This was run by Margaret Duke who married Arthur Thompson, after the death of Thomas Duke. In 1963, the hotel license expired, purchased by Stan Evans who set up a motorcycle and car accessories business in 1969. In 1977 it became shire property and was converted for office use which is its function today.

## Yarram's First Cemetery (Est. 1873)

In 1873 land was leased from John Walsh to establish a cemetery, 54 burials recorded by 1880s. 12<sup>th</sup> January 1898, severely damaged by fire. By 1913 moved to a new site and the area became a public reserve. The band rotunda was erected in November 1930. Today it is known as Memorial Park



# East Side Commercial Rd

## 2. The site of the Strand Hall

Built by Arthur J. Thompson in 1914 the Strand Hall was the venue for balls, dances, skating and showing films. Later to become known as the Globe Pictures, run by Dennis McGauran and his mother. In January 1963 the hall was sold for £8,500 and pulled down, ending an era of entertainment in the town. Now a Service Station.

## Federal Coffee Palace

Built in 1888 as a hotel for James Buckley, rooms were leased as the first home for the Yarram Men's Club. With the renewal of a licence at the Yarram hotel opposite, the Federal Coffee Palace was developed to cater for travelers.

## Masons Garage

## Bakery

Yarram's earliest bakery run by J.S. Wood conducted trade on this site in the early 1900s. Since that time bakeries have been conducted from various premises in the town.

## Club Hotel

The first hotel established by C. Stockwell was replaced in early 1900s.

## Stockwell Terrace

Yarram's first brick building; an accommodation house with nine rooms and a coffee palace was opened in October 1887 by Charles Stockwell.

## 3. The Yarram Men's Club

The Yarram Men's Club was recognized by the Licensing Court on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 1906 and was set up in the previous McKenzie home. The Club buildings underwent renovation in 1957, 1974 and again in 1983. Finally in 2004 the Club moved to brand new premises on the Bowling Club site.

## 4. The Co-Operative Store

Mr James McKenzie established a prosperous business with premises in 1889. The adjoining house was complete with spring lamps in each room, an electric bell, telephone, hot and cold baths and an English cooking range. In 1911 the store became the Yarram and District co-operative store. In 1962 the store was rebuilt with a self-serve grocery a year later the drapery and hardware sections closed, the store sold and renovations took place. The old tower, so long a landmark in Yarram was pulled down.

## 5. Gippsland Standard

Newspapers have been produced from this building since 1875, although fires in 1910 and 1923 led to the destruction of many historic records. Since 1971 the local paper - The Yarram Standard is produced weekly by the Giles family.

## Hairdresser and Tobacconist

Les Leonowry purchased the Hairdressing business on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1925. The salon had three chairs and a couple of employees, today it is run by his son with just one chair. Haircuts in those early days were 1/6 and regular shaves were in demand.

## Bank of Australasia.

The premises of the ANZ Bank since a merger in 1952, between the Union and Australasian Banks. Built in 1893 the building was hailed as the finest building in the township, rebuilt in a modern style in 1982.

## 6. Alberton Shire Offices

The present building replaced the first Shire Hall in June 1938. Prior to Shire amalgamations a new complex was built in Grant Street.

## Ventnor (Cnr Commercial Rd & King St)

Completed in 1912 this was the home of Dr Rutter and his wife - also a Doctor. It was completed with specially chosen timber from the Blackwarry Forest. Various local families have dwelt in the house.