

INTRODUCTION

There is ample circumstantial evidence that the area around Yalgoo was used by Aborigines many centuries before European settlement.

During good season, the countryside is lush with grass and seeds, and the surrounding rocky hills are abound with game.

The aboriginal word for the word blood in the local dialect is Yalgo.

Late in 1892, a shepherd named Pearce led a prospecting party from Mingenew to the site of what is now known as the Emerald Reward Claim. Although 1890-92 were bad drought years for the squatters, the discovery of gold and good summer rains ensured that Yalgoo was firmly placed on the map.

In 1896 the Geraldton Express Murchison Telegraph newspaper reported as follows: "Yalgoo is booming and several wealthy English and foreign syndicates have invested capital. Machinery arrives daily. There are 12 stores, 2 saddlers, 2 butchers, 3 bakers, 2 cordial manufacturers, 3 blacksmiths, 2 hairdressers, 2 tent makers, a chemist, watchmaker, bootmaker, livery stables, State School and Miners a police station, wardens quarters and courthouse under construction, also 4 hotels and 3 under construction".

The population by 1900 in the Yalgoo townsite was 200 with 1300 in the district, the majority engaged in the mining industry. Around the turn of the century, however, mining started a steady decline, poor shows, drought and occasional typhoid outbreaks saw the closure of several mines.

1. Yalgoo Railway Station

Piesse Street



The railway precinct is on the Register of Heritage Places of Western Australia. The first train arrived in Yalgoo in July 1896. Despite local protest, the Murchison Line closed in 1978. In 1983, the station was vested in the Shire of Yalgoo, who carried out its restoration with extensive community assistance. It re-opened as the Yalgoo Sporting Complex in 1994. It is the home of the Yalgoo Cup race day, an event dating back to 1898

2. Pioneer Store

Gibbons Street



Thomas Pidgeon established the general store and bakery in 1894. He eventually sold the business in 1915, and with a variety of owners and services, the business has operated continuously to the present.

3. Solomans Residence & Store

These remains are associated to Solomon Lowns, J.P. who operated the general store.

On 13th February 1903, Australia's first parcel bomb (disguised in a round wax matches box) was delivered to Yalgoo's Post Office, addressed to Lowns. Lowns opened the package at the Post Office counter and the explosion blew off his hand.

He continued single handed (in both meanings of the word) with his plan to build a stone cottage next to the store, but never completed the task before his death in 1921. He is buried in Lot 15 of the Yalgoo Cemetery.

4. Yalgoo Hotel

Gibbons Street



The Yalgoo Hotel is the only remaining hotel from the six hotels that flourished in the town during the late 1890's. Initially licensed as the Emerald Hotel in 1896, it was renamed the Railway Hotel before becoming the Yalgoo Hotel in the 1960's. The original building burnt to the ground in 1954. While the hotel was being rebuilt, it operated continuously as a hotel from the stables.

5. Commercial Hotel

Corner of Gibbons & Queens Street



Established as the Yalgoo Hotel in 1896 by Viscount Avonmore, it was renamed the Commercial Hotel in 1927. It continued operations until 1947, when it was recycled as building materials at Warriedar Station, south of Yalgoo.

6. COURT HOUSE

Gibbons Street



From the mid 1890's, a brush humpy occupied this site and served as a court, post office, and registry for births, deaths, marriages and mining. The current building was then relocated from the mining community of Day Dawn (built 1904) and erected at Yalgoo in the same year for the cost of 242 pounds.

In 1972, it was opened as the Yalgoo Museum.

The lock up facility was built by James Dawson in 1896. Prior to that, dangerous prisoners were chained to a post.

7. Coyne Store

Gibbons Store



Peter Coyne arrived in Yalgoo in 1915, and by 1923 he owned a precinct of shops. In 1926 he introduced the first hand pumped petrol bowser to Yalgoo. He eventually retired to Perth and died in 1952.

8. Police Station

Gibbons Street



Yalgoo has had a continuous police presence since February, 1895 when, Constable Fred Fox established a police camp. Initially prisoners were chained to a post in the police camp. These police station quarters and lock up were built in 1895. With few alterations, the station remained in use until 1982.

9. Jack Nevills Store

Corner Gibbons & Henry Street - Private residence, view from street.

The legendary Jack Nevill settled in Yalgoo in 1916, operating a store from 1924 to 1973. He resided in Yalgoo for 66 years, and served on the Roads Board or Shire Council for a total of 56 years.

10. Old Club Hotel Site

Cnr Gibbons & Selwyn St - Private residence, view from street

In 1894, Walter Moxon, one of the prospectors who made the first discovery of gold at Yalgoo, built a stone hotel on this site known as the Yalgoo Hotel. The hotel licence was revoked in 1924 and the building was used as a private residence.

In 1954, the then owner Ronald Ernest Hamilton, using stone from the old hotel built a private house one of the first modern houses to be built in Yalgoo for many years. In 1960, the Native Welfare Department converted it to a home for Aboriginal children who attended the Yalgoo State School. It was renamed Warramboe House. It served this purpose until 1980.

In 1982, it was transferred to the Police Department for use as a staff residence.

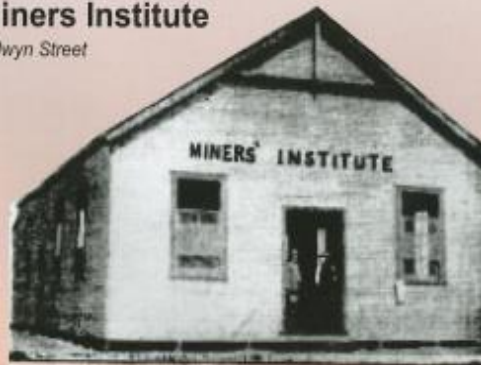
11. Miners Institute

Selwyn Street

Established in the 1890's, the Institute was considered one of the best buildings in Yalgoo. As a public meeting space, it was functional through to 1956 when the Yalgoo Hall and Shire offices were opened.

Miners Institute

Selwyn Street



12. Anglican Church

Selwyn Street

The Anglican community of Yalgoo has participated in church services from 1895. Holy Trinity was erected by Messrs. Millars' Karri and Jarrah Company. It was officially opened by Bishop Riley on 14th August 1912.



13. Cumberland Hotel

Corner Shamrock & Selwyn Street



The hotel was established in 1895 initially as a tent hotel. It was originally called the Miners Rest. It eventually closed in 1938, with its building materials recycled to construct a hotel in Agnew. In 1952, the empty site was developed by the Yalgoo Road Board into a children's playground.

14. Yalgoo School

Henty Street



The first school in Yalgoo was established in Selwyn Street with 35 Students in 1897. Following a severe flood, a new school was built on this site in 1899. The stunning mural was added to the school in 1999 through a student art initiative.

15. Emerald Hotel

Henty Street



This was Yalgoo's first licensed wayside inn, established in 1893. When the town was gazetted in 1896, the hotel was deemed outside the town boundary, and hence not included on the town plan. In 1896, the then licensee Arthur Hanlon closed this building and transferred the name to a new hotel building, which is the site of the present Yalgoo Hotel. A unique feature of the hotel was its roof of flattened fuel tins.

16. Site of Old Tent Hospital

Henty Street



The original hospital in Yalgoo was a collection of simple canvas structures. It operated from 1896 - 1900. There was a progressive change from tents to tin buildings on this site.

17. Site of old graves

Over the hill west end of Henty Street

Typhoid Fever was a major health problem in Yalgoo during the early 1890's. These graves are of typhoid victims - Sydney Abrahamson (Assistant Postmaster) William McBride (Clerk of Courts) and Peter Hamilton. Prior to the establishment of the Yalgoo Cemetery in 1896, this was obviously a popular grave site. At least 10 other graves have been identified in nearby proximity.

18. Dominica Convent Chapel

Henty Street



Built during 1921/22, this is the smallest church designed by the renowned priest and architect Father John Cyril Hawes, who was parish priest for the Murchison Goldfields and Mid West from 1915-1938. This inter-war Romanesque style masonry chapel with a terracotta tiled roof & timber framed bell tower is one of the 23 remaining buildings designed and built by Hawes. Following the closure of the convent and its school in 1949, the chapel fell into despair. In 1981, the Shire of Yalgoo reopened the restored Chapel.

19. Site of Old Emerald Hotel

Henty Street

20. Catholic Church

Henty Street

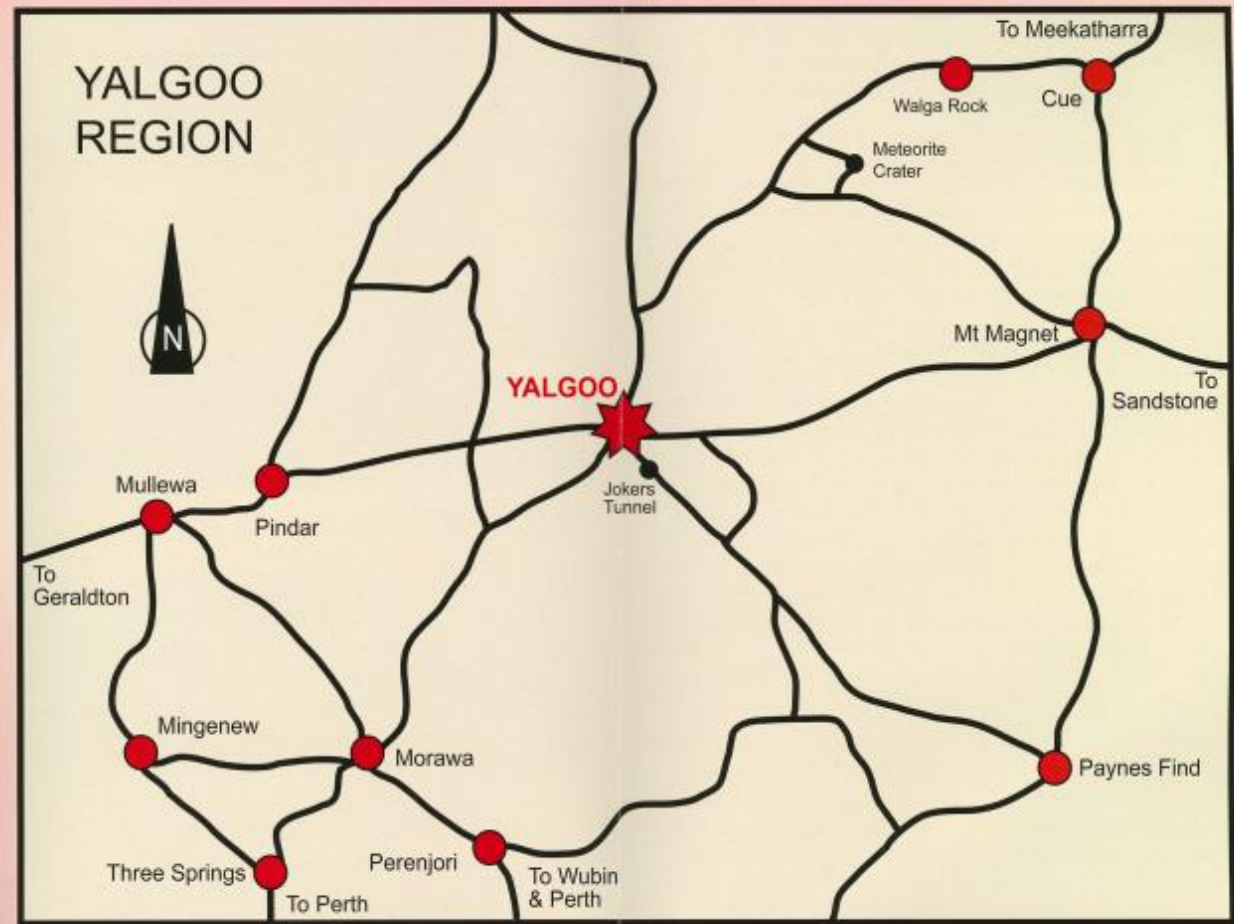


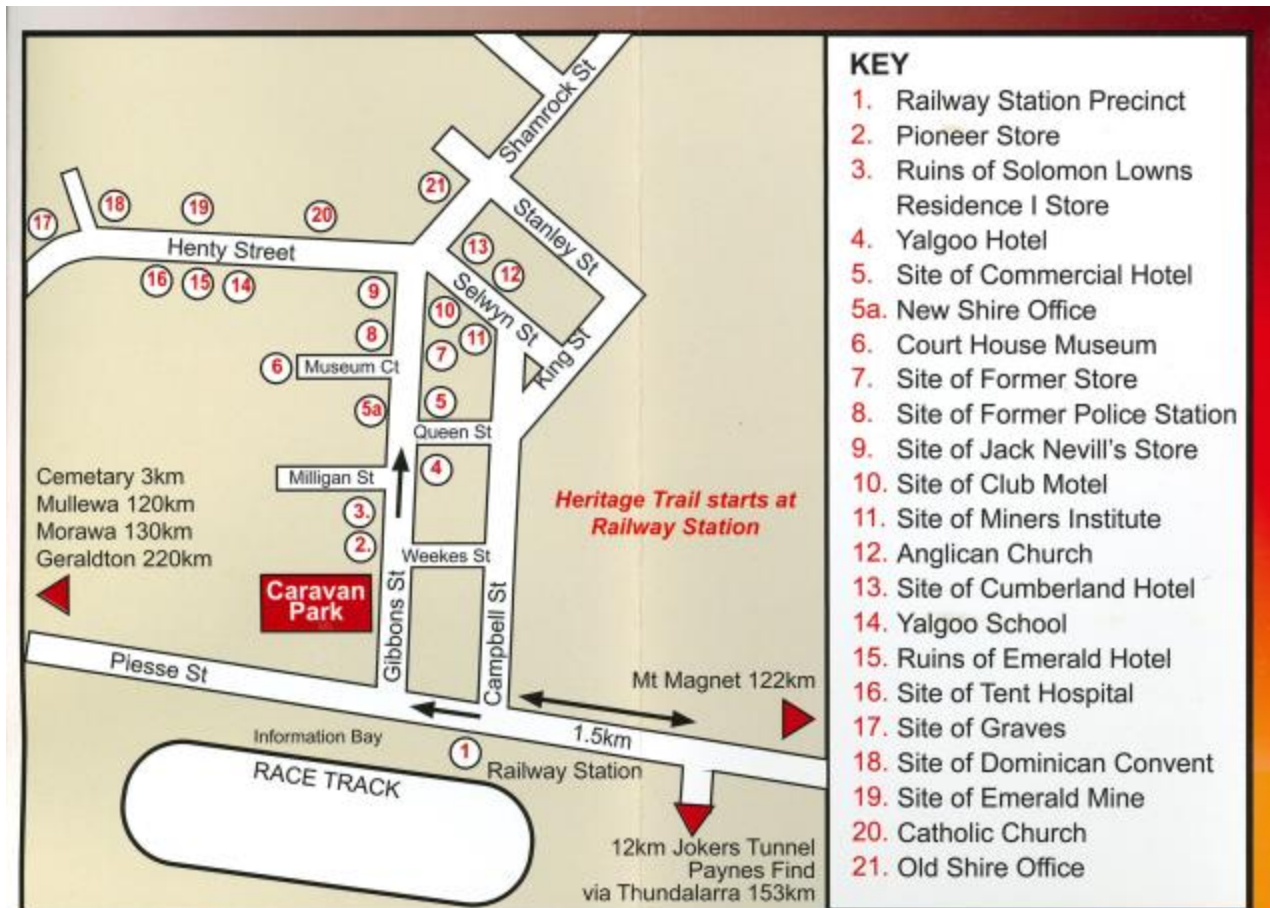
The original Catholic Church, the Holy Saviour was built of corrugated iron and timber in Gothic style and opened in 1909. A priest's house was built directly behind. All these buildings were demolished in a storm in 1984. The current church, St Finbarrs was transported from Mullewa to the same site in 1987.

21. Site of Shire Office

Shamrock Street

Originally a community Progress Association conducted the affairs of Yalgoo. In July 1896, a Road Board was established which covered an area of 22,000 sq kms and a population of 2,300 people. Initially it met in the Miner's Institute. In 1902, its first office was built in Gibbons Street at a cost of 304 pounds. In 1956, it was decided to establish this Shire Hall and Office. This building was brought from Wiluna where it had served for 34 Years as a miners club. The original office / library was demolished in a storm in 1984. In 1961, the Yalgoo Road Board became the Shire of Yalgoo.





KEY

- 1. Railway Station Precinct
- 2. Pioneer Store
- 3. Ruins of Solomon Lowms Residence I Store
- 4. Yalgoo Hotel
- 5. Site of Commercial Hotel
- 5a. New Shire Office
- 6. Court House Museum
- 7. Site of Former Store
- 8. Site of Former Police Station
- 9. Site of Jack Nevill's Store
- 10. Site of Club Motel
- 11. Site of Miners Institute
- 12. Anglican Church
- 13. Site of Cumberland Hotel
- 14. Yalgoo School
- 15. Ruins of Emerald Hotel
- 16. Site of Tent Hospital
- 17. Site of Graves
- 18. Site of Dominican Convent
- 19. Site of Emerald Mine
- 20. Catholic Church
- 21. Old Shire Office

How To Get There

Yalgoo is located 222 kilometres east of Geraldton and 600 kilometres from Perth between Mullewa and Mt Magnet. The town of Yalgoo was one of the earliest settlements in the Central Murchison, its growth precipitated by the discovery of gold in 1892.

The Yalgoo Heritage Trail is a self guiding walk/drive through the town featuring sites of historical significance. Following the trail map look for signs bearing the Heritage Trail Network

Shire of Yalgoo

Gibbons Street
 Yalgoo WA 6635
 Office hours 9am to 4pm
 Ph: 9962 8042 Fax: 9962 8020
www.yalgoo.wa.gov.au

YALGOO CARAVAN PARK

Gibbons St Yalgoo