



# Narrogin Heritage Trail

Settlement and Development  
of the Narrogin District



41



A Commonwealth/State  
Bicentennial Project

Shire of Narrogin



AL41800146587B

# How To Get There

Narrogin is 190km south-east of Perth on Great Southern Highway (State Route 120), via Albany Highway (State Route 95) turning east at Williams or Brookton Highway (State Route 40) turning south at Brookton. There are Westrail buses through Narrogin daily.

The **Narrogin Heritage Trail** explores the settlement and development of the Narrogin area, and has two sections:

1. The **Narrogin Townsite Trail**, a 14km drive featuring significant historical sites in the Narrogin town, including a short walk highlighting buildings in Egerton Street. This section offers opportunities for picnicking, nature walks through Fox's Lair National Park and a visit to the Old Courthouse Museum.

Allow 1½ hours to complete this section.

2. The **Narrogin District Trail**, a 117km drive based on the old Mourambine Track used by traders and settlers in the Arthur River/Williams districts and highlighting the historical farms in the area.

At a leisurely pace this section, which includes a visit to the neighbouring town of Williams, will take about half a day to complete.

**Please note:**

*Persons using this Heritage Trail do so at their own risk.*

# Introduction

The following excerpt, from a survey gazetted by John Forrest in 1869 as Williams Location 177, describes a location within the present townsite's boundaries and is considered to be the original survey for Narrogin:

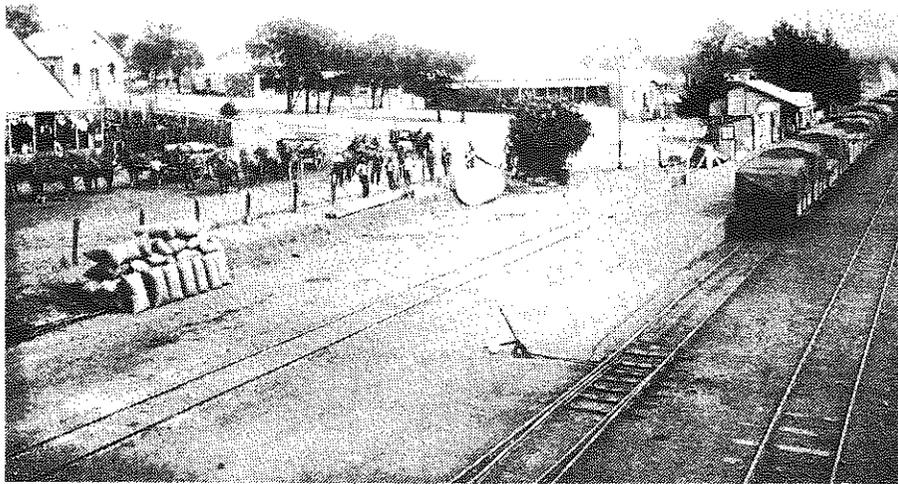
*...Bounded on the north and east by lines extending respectively west thirty chains and south thirty-three chains...from a spot of fifteen chains north and fifteen chains east from the centre of Narrogin Pool, the said pool being situated three hundred and thirty-one chains seventy-five links north from the north-east corner of Williams Location 149...*

From 1881 the Western Australian Government actively pursued the idea of a railway line between Perth and Albany. In 1884 Anthony Hordern, a Sydney businessman, successfully bid for the railway contract on behalf of the W.A. Land Company. Although he died while on his way back from England (the Hordern Hotel on Federal Street was named after him), the project went ahead. The line was started in October 1886 and completed in July 1889.

The Land Company found itself short of a watering place for its engines and so acquired Narrogin Pool. The Beverley to Albany Railway Act of 1887 granted all unowned land within the Narrogin townsite to the W.A. Land Company.

A plan of the projected town was drawn up in 1889 by a surveyor, possibly William Angove, and was used as a basis for development. Much of the original plan still applies to Narrogin today.

While the W.A. Land Company held the townsite, settlers were unable to raise grant money for road work in the district from the Williams Road Board and consequently chose to secede from the Williams board. Michael Brown and John Chipper resigned from the Williams board to become founding members of the new Narrogin Road Board, which was gazetted on May 18th, 1892. With control in their own hands, Narrogin residents were free to develop their town and district.

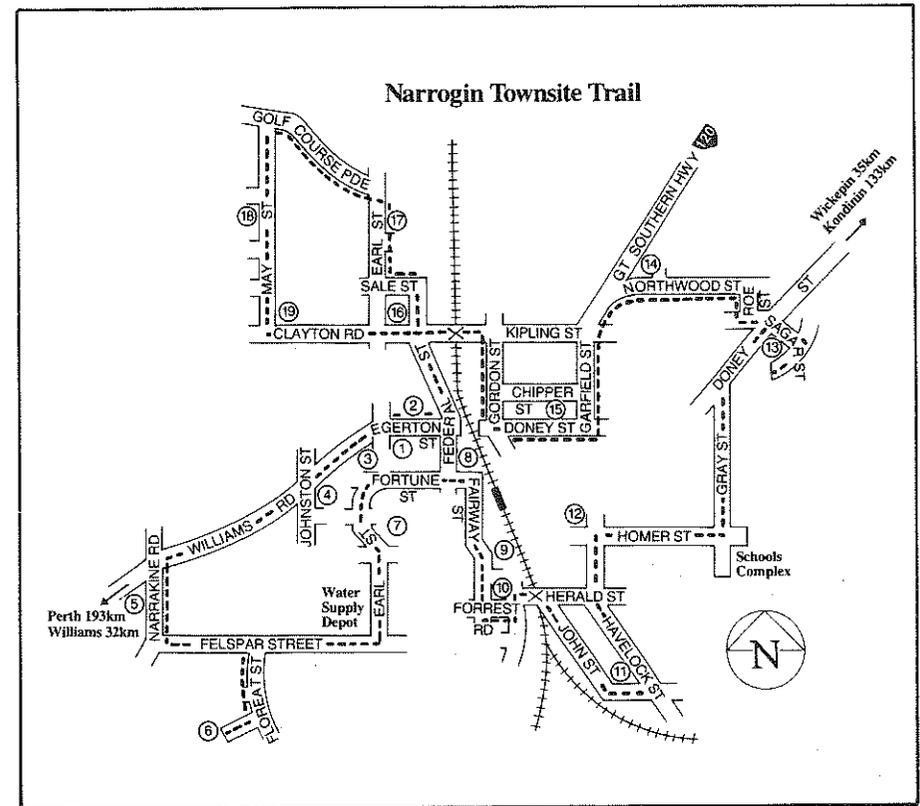


The Narrogin Railway Station in 1904 (courtesy Battye Library, 4347B/12).

Although its initial impetus for settlement came from the railway, Narrogin's growth would not have continued without both dynamic settlers and extra sources of income. In the early days of Narrogin many settlers offset the financial problems caused by poor initial harvests by selling sandalwood and mallet bark, both native to the region. Sandalwood was eagerly sought after in Asia for use in incense and oils, and indiscriminate harvesting of the bushes has meant that it is now rare in the area.

The bark of mallet trees growing wild on the hilltops in the region was almost accidentally discovered to be a useful agent for the tanning and preservation of leather, and large areas around Narrogin were planted with the trees to serve as a long-term source of income. However, cheaper and more effective tanning agents were discovered and the trees were left uncut, creating reserves such as Dryandra Forest.

The major sources of revenue for Narrogin have always been sheep, wheat and oat farming, often for chaff, as well as some dairying.



**KEY**

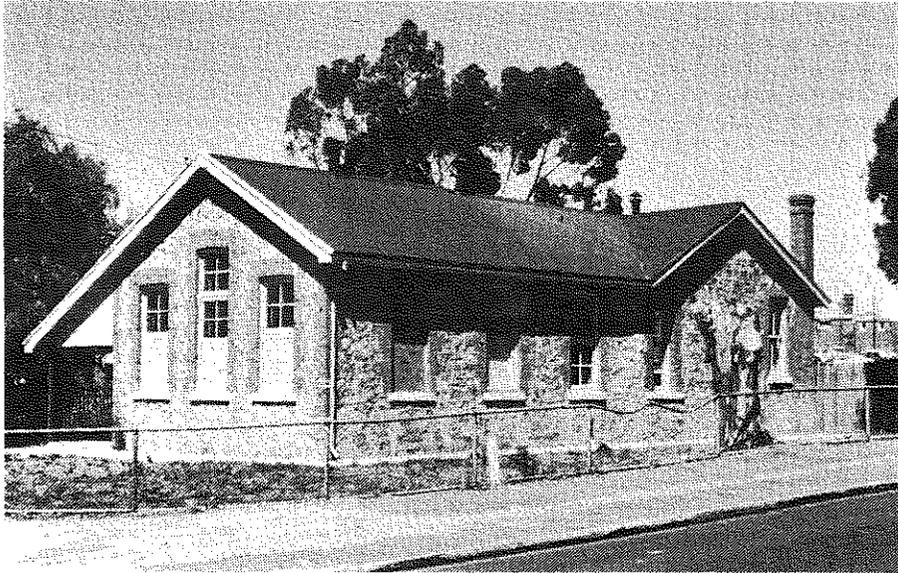
- ① Old Courthouse Museum
- ② Egerton Street
- ③ Narrogin Memorial Park
- ④ Lavater's Home
- ⑤ Fox's Lair National Park
- ⑥ Rifle Range & Arboretum
- ⑦ Moss Park
- ⑧ Hordern Hotel
- ⑨ The Great Southern Flour Milling Company
- ⑩ Council Power Station Building
- ⑪ Joe Grainger's Home
- ⑫ Vailima Private Hospital
- ⑬ Lions Lookout
- ⑭ Narrogin No. 1 Commonage
- ⑮ Doney Street
- ⑯ Michael Brown's House
- ⑰ Michael Brown's First Inne
- ⑱ Douglas C. Scott's House
- ⑲ Narrogin Greater Sportsground

# Townsite Trail

## 1. Old Courthouse Museum

Corner of Egerton and Earl Streets

Opening hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 2pm to 4.30pm  
Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am



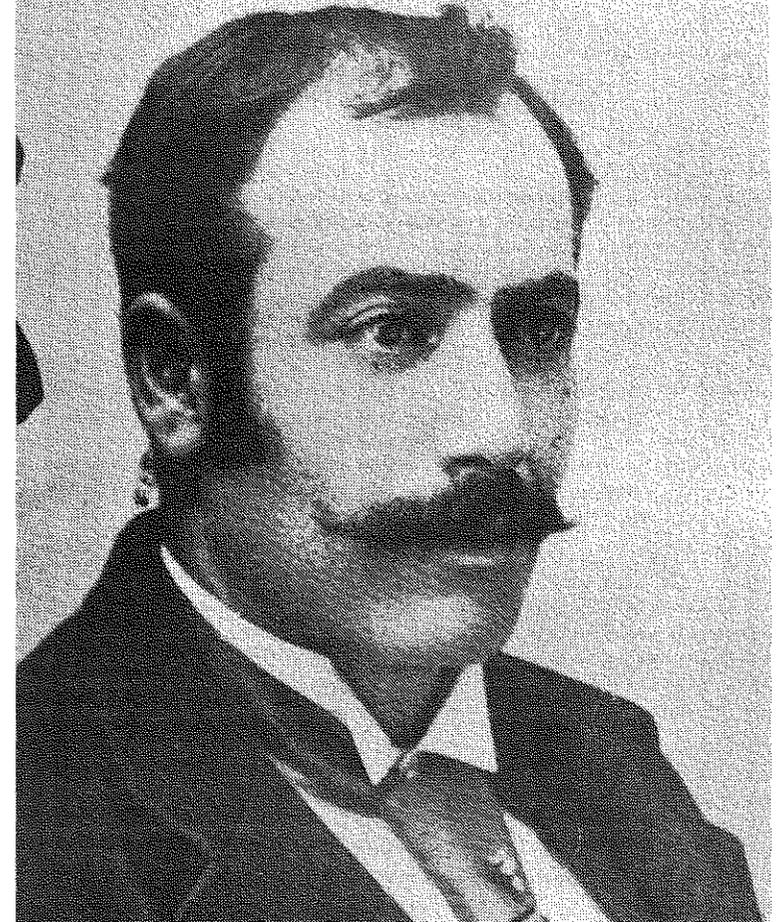
*The Old Courthouse Museum in 1982 (courtesy Mr F.A. Sharr).*

This building was originally a Government school designed by George Temple-Poole and built in 1894 by A.J. Stewart. It accommodated 40 boys and girls in one large classroom, 30 feet by 20 feet, with separate entrances and washrooms. A second classroom was added in 1902.

When a new school was built on a different site this building was converted in 1905 for use as a courthouse. From 1924 to 1945 it was the local branch of the Agricultural Bank. After this time it was again used as the Narrogin Courthouse, until 1970. It was officially opened as the Old Courthouse Museum on September 18th, 1976, and a visit to view the displays providing an insight into the life and times of Narrogin is highly recommended.

## 2. Egerton Street

Central to Egerton Street are the works of one man, Nicholas 'Charlie' Bushalla. Born in Syria in 1869, he arrived in Australia in 1887. He moved permanently to Western Australia and by 1897 had become one of the earliest settlers in Narrogin.

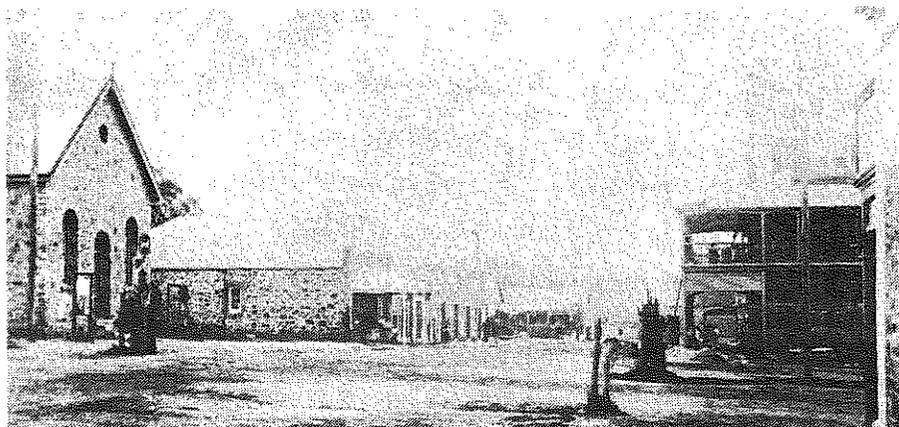


*Nicholas 'Charlie' Bushalla (courtesy Hall Collection, Narrogin and District Historical Society).*

Bushalla was well thought of in the community and at a function run by the Shire in aid of the War Patriotic Fund on February 6th, 1919, a parody of "Willow Tit Willow" was sung in his honour. Among other nice things, it suggests his talent for tradé:

*There are not many things that old Charlie can't do, Keep a store, run a pub, and a picture show, too: And some day a new parson may burst on our view — The Reverend Charlie Bushalla!!*

This accolade was not given lightly — Bushalla established the Duke of York Hotel, a draper and clothier's store on Federal Street, and a brewery which later became a soft-drink and mineral water factory. The brewery's demise was due to the beer, which was described as tasting like mallet-bark juice, possibly due to the quality of water available.



Federal Street c.1903, with the Hordern Hotel on the right (courtesy Battye Library, 4347B/8).

Bushalla also built a skating rink, established a picture show and had agricultural and pastoral interests.

Apart from the Duke of York Hotel in Federal Street, few of Bushalla's interests still stand. The Skating Rink and Picture Theatre is now a Handimart, the Bushalla residence has become Narrogin Cycles, and Coles stands on the site of the brewery.

The **Mardoc Building** was designed by B.H. Dods and built by J.H. Brown for Mr Cornwall in 1908, quite possibly with the intent of getting a hotel licence. However, the three-storey brick and concrete Dutch Colonial-style building was mainly used for shops, with a coffee palace and boarding house upstairs. The building still contains shops.

The **former Western Australian Bank** (now Vogue Fabrics) was the second bank in Narrogin. It was initially housed in a little tin building near this spot that was later moved to Nicholas Bushalla's block. This building was completed some time after 1904. The Western Australian Bank was founded in 1837 after the Union and Australasian banks declined an interest in Western Australia. The bank thrived, and awakened to the market, the Australasian bank offered amalgamation. The W.A. Bank rejected the offer and undercut to the extent that the Australasian Bank closed in 1847. The W.A. Bank merged with the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac Banking Corporation) in 1929.

**Former Road Board Offices** (now Shire Offices) were built in 1905 at a cost of £239.17d. Early council meetings were held at the Hordern Hotel and then at the Agricultural Hall. Later the building was enlarged with creation of a boardroom and several shops.

Other Egerton Street buildings worth noting are the original **Schoolmaster's Residence** (now Youthforce office) and the **Soldiers' Memorial Institute** (built in 1925). A service station is on the site of the town's first well, the main source of water until 1908, when another source was discovered and Millars Timber Yard was set up on the site.

### 3. Narrogin Memorial Park

*Williams Road*

*Barbecue facilities are available at the western end of the park*

This triangular park was originally used as a yard for police horses before becoming public parkland. Its central feature is the Memorial Pavilion, containing the names of the battlefields on which Australian troops were engaged.

Across the park a convent building can be seen. The Sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions staffed the first church school from 1923 and the convent was built to house them in 1929.

### 4. Lavater's Home

*South-east corner of Johnston Street and Williams Road*

*Private residence: please view from the street*

George Geoffrey Lavater came to Narrogin early in the 20th century and was one of the founders of the original Road Board. He is noted as being the architect of the Town Hall, and also served for many years as Road Board Secretary.

Lavater's early period brick home still stands in its original location. Opposite is the Narrogin Primary School and further to the west (opposite Daglish Street) is the site of the first Government hospital in Narrogin.

*Continue along Williams Road and turn left into Narrakine Road.*

## 5. Fox's Lair National Park

*Narrakine Road*

This park has an abundance of native flora and fauna, with convenient walktrails (vehicle access is limited). There is a picnic spot and barbecue area in the middle of the park.

Native animals in the park include the Pigmy Possum (*Cercartetus concinus*) and the Red-Tailed Wambenger (*Genus phascogale*), a tree-dwelling carnivorous marsupial.



*Red-tailed Wambenger (Genus phascogale) (courtesy Ms J. Simpson)*

*Turn left into Felspar Street and then right into Floreat Street.*

## 6. Rifle Range and Arboretum

*off Floreat Street*

The Rifle Range appears on town plans dating back to 1929, and the Arboretum is an old research project by the Forests Department (now the Department of Conservation and Land Management), which involved the planting and monitoring of various types of trees. It is now a well-established wooded area.

*Return to Felspar Street and turn right, then left into Earl Street. The **Water Supply Depot** on the corner of Felspar and Earl streets is the site of Narrogin's second well. The original well was on the north-east corner of Egerton and Federal streets (see **Egerton Street Walk**). There was also the Council Shower Baths for public use at five shillings per quarter year.*

## 7. Moss Park

*Earl Street*

This hill commemorates William Edmund Carew Moss, J.P., who was born in New Zealand in 1864 and came to Narrogin in the late 1890s as a surveyor. He was a sponsor of the first Road Board, and was Narrogin's first Mayor, from 1906 to 1909.

On the corner of Park Street is the Presbyterian Church (disused) and the Catholic Presbytery and Church. The Anglican Church (c.1900) is located to the east just over the hill.

## 8. Hordern Hotel

*Corner of Fortune and Federal streets*



*The Hordern Hotel, c.1900 (courtesy Battye Library, Encyclopedia of W.A., p.686).*

The original Hordern Hotel was a single-storey structure facing the railway line. The Hotel was later rebuilt to face Federal Street and altered again following a disastrous fire in 1922. The nearby R&I Bank stands on the site of the first Agricultural Hall, an early social centre for the Narrogin district. The Town Hall, Library and original Council Chamber were built by Hugh Marsh in 1908 to a design by G.G. Lavater. The lesser Town Hall, now the Narrogin Reception Centre, was added in 1922.

Next to the Hotel is Mackie Park, named after Dr D.W. Mackie, an early Mayor.

The early retail centre of Narrogin was located on the south-east corner of this intersection, where John Chippers' first store faced the railway line and second store faced Federal Street.



A.W. Manning's (previously John Chipper's) store, c.1911 (courtesy Battye Library, 29808P).

Chipper's father is remembered for leaping off a rock on the York Road while being hotly pursued by Aborigines in 1832 (this site, now known as Chipper's Leap, is featured on the **Guildford to York Heritage Trail**, an 80km drive based on the original route to York). John Chipper Jnr was born in 1855 and travelled with his father on the mail runs. He bought into the Narrogin business of F. and C. Piesse when the railway forced mail coaches out of business. Chipper later built a more permanent establishment up the Street, as well as stables and a cow yard on the A.N.Z. block.

This store became A.W. Manning's in 1911 and continued for many years until it was taken over by Foy and Gibson (later known as David Jones), then Western Family Stores. The building was later divided into a number of small shops and a central arcade.

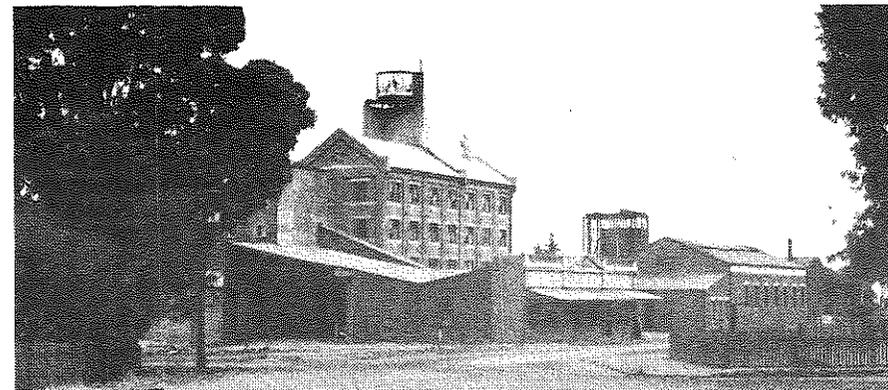
Further east in Fortune Street the AMP building (1926) overlooks the railway yards. South of this in Fairway Street is a row of palm trees planted early in the 20th century by A.W. Manning.

Turn right into Fairway Street.

## 9. The Great Southern Flour Milling Company Site

Fairway Street, opposite Furnival Street

No buildings remain



The Narrogin Flour Mill in 1951 (courtesy Battye Library, 816B/C120).

The original mill on this site was built by J. Robertson and H. Marsh in 1903, and then rebuilt by Marsh in 1925. In the early 1940s wooden bins were installed in the grain shed. In 1912 the Flour Milling Company became interested in an electric power concession because they needed power for the expanding mill, and with the profitable concession were able to build a far bigger plant than otherwise possible.

The Company tendered for the Narrogin lighting contract, which it was granted for 21 years from July 1st, 1913. A new brick building housed the gas-driven generators and an iron annex contained two upright gas producers. Dry white gum was the specified fuel.

The site of the Flour Mill is now owned by Dingo Flour and is private property.

## 10. Council Power Station Building

Corner of Forrest and Francis streets

The Narrogin Council took over responsibility for providing power from the Great Southern Flour Milling Company in 1934. The power station ran until the 1960s when the S.E.C. began supplying power. The building is now used as the Council workshop and depot and the interior has been completely remodelled. It can be seen best from the road.

Turn left into Forrest Street, right into John Street, then left into Walker Street.

## 11. Site of Joe Grainger's Home

*Corner of Walker and Havelock streets*

Joe Grainger, an early resident of Narrogin, is remembered because of the extensive diaries he left behind. He was involved in road construction in the centre of Narrogin, and in surveying the route from Narrogin to Southern Cross. He also worked on the railways as a porter.

His house was situated in the empty field to the left.

*Turn left into Havelock Street.*

## 12. Vailima Private Hospital

*Corner of Havelock and Homer streets*

This was Narrogin's first hospital, built by Dan Kelliher in 1914 for his sister Bessie to administer, which she did until her death in 1929. For many years it was a maternity hospital, as was the second Vailima Hospital, on the corner of Earl and Falcon streets.

It is now a private residence, in an area which has many excellent examples of early Narrogin homes.

*To get to the Lions Lookout (Site 13), turn right into Homer Street, left into Gray Street, right into Doney Street then right again into Sagar Street.*

## 13. Lions Lookout

*Sagar Street*

This lookout offers the best view of Narrogin and surrounds. From here can be seen the Narrogin Regional Hospital, churches, Central Business District, Sportsground Complex, CBH Grain Receiving Depot and the many farmlands and much bushland surrounding the town. To the south-east is the schools complex, consisting of primary and secondary schools, a special school, an Educational Resource Centre and the student hostel, housing 250 students.

*Return along Sagar Street, turn right into Roe Street (named after John Septimus Roe, Western Australia's first Surveyor General) then left into Northwood Street.*

## 14. Narrogin No. 1 Commonage

*Northwood Street*

Complaints were made in 1906 about cattle roaming in the streets and as a result this commonage was fenced and cattle owners were charged for use of the pasture. Non-payers had their cattle turned out into the street.

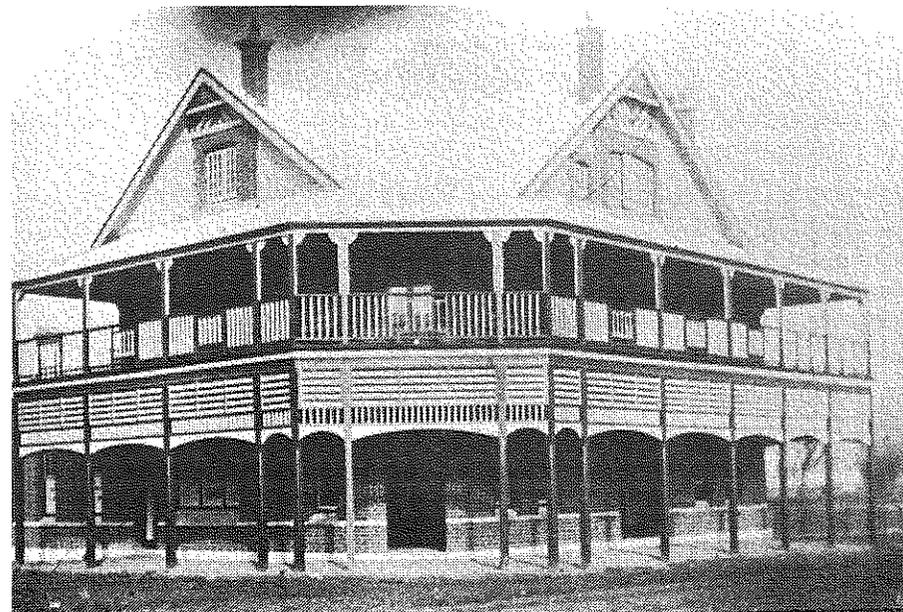
It was then a pasture for privately-owned cows, offering the services of the town bull for 12 shillings and sixpence per cow. During the Second World War (1939-45) the area became the town aerodrome and was later developed for Government housing. It is now a residential area.

*Turn left into Garfield Street then right into Doney Street.*

## 15. Doney Street

Doney Street was once the major east-west road through Narrogin, crossing the railway line into Egerton Street, and contains the Cornwall Hotel, the Methodist (Uniting) Church, and the Railway Coffee Palace (later the Ice Works) on the corner of Gordon Street.

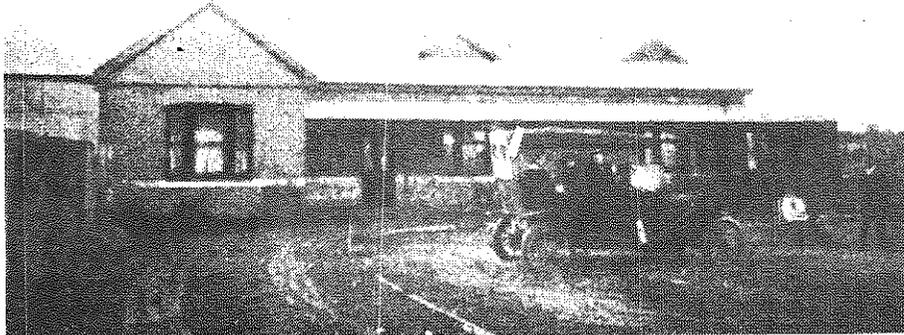
*Turn right into Gordon Street, left into Kipling Street, cross the railway line and turn right into Federal Street.*



*The Cornwall Hotel, c.1900 (courtesy Battye Library, 23743P).*

## 16. Site of Michael Brown's House

*Corner of Federal and Clayton streets*



*Michael Brown's House, c.1905 (courtesy Battye Library, Q994.1 Vol.2 p.687).*

'Carrabin' was built on the south-east corner of Michael Brown's original holdings which stretched north and west for many kilometres. Brown's land included the area now occupied by the Old Golf Club and the Sportsground Complex.

Brown was born in Ireland and came to Western Australia in 1857. He studied the land laws and took advantages of the regulations governing the acquisition of land to build up huge properties.

Brown settled near the railway at Narrogin, taking 3,000 acres (1,215 hectares) as well as 4,000 acres (1,620 hectares) to the east, which he named 'Boondyne'. Before building the Hordern Hotel he built a Wayside Inn to the north of town, but later transferred his interest to the surveyed site. Gradually Brown built up a stake in the town, acquiring a number of town blocks, building offices and shops, as well as farming his properties with his sons.

Brown became first chairman of the Narrogin Road Board at its inception, held a seat on the Town Council, and later served as Mayor.

*Turn left into Sale Street then right into Earl Street.*

## 17. Site of Michael Brown's first Inn

*Earl Street*

There was a Wayside Inn here along what was originally the Mourambine Track, which ran south from Mourambine, near Pingelly. The Mourambine Track came in across the old (second) golfcourse from the north-west.

The site has since been cleared and is part of a light industrial area.

*Turn left into Golf Course Parade then left into May Street.*

## 18. Douglas C. Scott's House

*May Street*

The timber and iron house was built here by solicitor Douglas Comyn Scott, who also established an apple orchard (now mostly disappeared). He was retained as a solicitor for the first Council, and was Narrogin's second Mayor from 1909 to 1910. Scott left the district in 1915 and the house is now privately owned.

*Turn right into Clayton Street.*

## 19. Narrogin Greater Sportsground

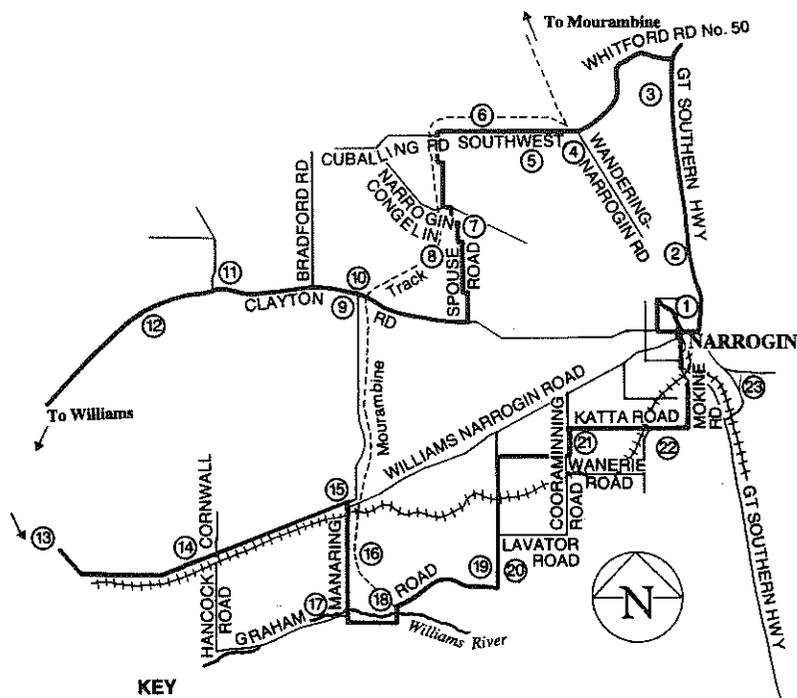
*Clayton Street*

After a prize was offered in 1919 to design a Sportsground, a remarkable plan was drawn up by Stan Loftus. Narrogin's Greater Sportsground became the standard pattern for others, and enquiries came from all over Australia. Delighted with the success of their ground, in 1923 the Council had a shield representing "Narrogin Combined Sports and Parks Ground, established 1921", placed on their stationery.

Sports catered for include football, cricket, hockey, softball, croquet, racing, pacing, swimming, bowls, horse trials, jumping, dressage and other indoor sports at the Recreation Centre.

*This completes the Narrogin Townsite Trail.*

## Narrogin District Trail



### KEY

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| ① Doddum Farm         | ⑬ Bannister             |
| ② Hillside            | ⑭ Carnegie              |
| ③ Chuggamunny         | ⑮ Geeratyng             |
| ④ Nebrikinning        | ⑯ Geeratyng School Site |
| ⑤ Nebrikinning School | ⑰ The Bridge            |
| ⑥ Murrin Murrin       | ⑱ Kunderning Pool       |
| ⑦ Sylvania            | ⑲ Dumbemng Spring       |
| ⑧ Rose Valley         | ⑳ Cooramining           |
| ⑨ Minninging School   | ㉑ Torbling Spring       |
| ⑩ Minigin             | ㉒ Firie                 |
| ⑪ Rosedale            | ㉓ Narrogin Brickworks   |
| ⑫ Denabling           |                         |

## Narrogin District Trail

This section begins approximately 1.5km north of Narrogin on Great Southern Highway.

It is based on the Mourambine Track, which ran south from the Mourambine (or Moorumbine) district from the 1880s and helped open up the Narrogin area. The northern section of the track was no longer used after the railway was established 10km west of Mourambine and the town declined. Many of the sites on this drive were built alongside the original track.

The **Moorumbine Heritage Trail** is a walk/drive through the old Mourambine townsite (outside Pingelly) and features seven sites of historical significance, including early settlers' cottages, St Patrick's Church and the site of the old school. Trail brochures are available from the Shire of Pingelly and the Pingelly Arts and Crafts Centre.

### 1. Doddum Farm

Great Southern Highway (west)

The first owner of this farm was vigneron John Dodd, who built a stone and mud mortar house here about 1880 and grew grapes. It was later leased by a Mr Mickle (who was a barber) as a dairy, and later was bought by Jim Callan and his bride, Clara Trefort of 'Hillside'.

### 2. Hillside

Great Southern Highway (west)

This farm has been the home of the Trefort family since 1892. August Trefort farmed his 200 acres intensively, running dairy cows and poultry, growing vegetables and maintaining a thriving orchard which one year produced a surplus of 1,000 pounds of cherries. However, the farm's main income came from chaff-producing wheat and oat crops. August's grandson Harry established an Aberdeen Angus stud.



Harvest time in the Narrogin district, c.1900s (courtesy Battye Library, 4347B/75).

### 3. Chuggamunny

*Great Southern Highway (west)*

Though the name of this property has been recorded as Jugominning and Shuggamunny, it was originally named for nearby Chuggamunny Hill which was the site of a barracks used by rail workers in the 1880s.

*Turn left into Whitford Road (No. 50) then left into Cuballing Road South-West.*

### 4. Nebrikinning

*Wandering — Narrogin Road (south)*

This block, originally registered in 1886, was taken up by James Fitt around 1890 and was known as 'Thistledale'. James Fitt took an active part in campaigning for a school in the area.

Though the original house has long since been demolished, the property still belongs to the Fitt family.

### 5. Nebrikinning School Site

*Cuballing Road South-West (south)*

This small school was equipped with manual training, sewing and library facilities, and a playground for sport. Now only the foundations are left among the Red Gums, and the Pines planted by students.

### 6. Murrin Murrin

*Cuballing Road South-West (north)*

This site, chosen because of its excellent supply of fresh water (the well at the spring was seemingly inexhaustible), was taken up by the Barron family. The farm was extensively improved by Frank Ashworth and is still in the Ashworth family.

*Turn left into Pritchard Road, left again into Narrogin Road, then right into Spouse Road.*

### 7. Sylvania

*Spouse Road (east)*

This land, taken up by Ted Pustkuchen in 1904, is on the creek running from the east, on the Mourambine Track. Pustkuchen's first home was of corrugated iron, lined and divided by whitewashed hessian. The house was named 'Sylvania', and was extensively rebuilt over the years, but has since been demolished.

### 8. Rose Valley

*Spouse Road (west)*

This property was settled by John Spouse in 1904. Spouse was born in Victoria in 1878 and arrived in Narrogin via the copper mines of Tasmania and the goldfields of Kalgoorlie. The property still remains in the Spouse family.

*Turn right into Clayton Road.*

### 9. Minninging School Site

*Clayton Road (north)*

A small school opened on this site in July 1907 to provide schooling for the many families in the area. It closed in December 1948.

### 10. Minigin

*Clayton Road (north)*

When Edward Barron resigned from the Police Force in 1871 he was granted a gratuity of 50 acres which he selected in this area, naming it 'Minigin' and gradually extending it over the years.

To the north is Barron's original block. The house he built on the other side of the river is occupied by members of the Alexander family, who now own the farm. The Mourambine Track crossed here and followed the road to Williams.



Minigin in 1980 (courtesy W.A. Heritage Committee).

## 11. Rosedale

Corner of Clayton and Rosedale roads (north-east)

This block was originally taken up by Clayton and Rintoul. It was bought in 1907 by Thomas and Alexander Hardie, pastoralists from the Port Hedland area. The 14-roomed house was built for Thomas Hardie.

## 12. Denabling

Clayton Road (south)

This property was established by Ted Hardie and is still owned by his family. Hardie had an interest in horses and was a keen member of the Narrogin Race Club.

The trail now continues along Clayton Road to Williams, where refreshments are available. To continue the trail, leave Williams via Williams-Narrogin Road.

The **Williams Heritage Trail** explores early areas of settlement and has two sections: a 1km walk along the main street of the Williams township and a 35km scenic drive to Quindanning. It provides a pleasant half-day's outing with opportunities for picnicking. Trail brochures are available from the Williams Shire Office, Quindanning Hotel and Williams roadhouses.

## 13. Bannister Site

Williams-Narrogin Road

This site was originally chosen as a strategic point for a military base. On the nearby Kondinning Katta is the house built as an Anglican rectory, used by the Rev. Gillett from Mourambine. Local landowners were Messrs Phillips, Rabbish and Carter (Carter's Crossing). Joe Grainger's parents also lived nearby and the grave of his mother and sister can be seen.

## 14. Carnegie

Williams-Narrogin Road (north)

Appointments can be made to view this property by calling Mr P. Tucker on (098) 85 3224 between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

This beautiful home was built in 1910 by William Cornwall, who also owned buildings in town, and is the centre of a large property. It was also the start of John Forrest's survey up the Williams River in 1872.

## 15. Geeralying

Corner of Williams-Narrogin and Cowcher roads (north-west)

This property was first taken up by Stanyford Cowcher in 1893 on the site of the Gearlin Aboriginal camp. He later bought the neighbouring property from William LeFevre Graham, son of William Graham of Torbling Spring.

Return east along Williams-Narrogin Road and turn right into Manaring Road.

## 16. Geeralying School Site

Manaring Road (east)

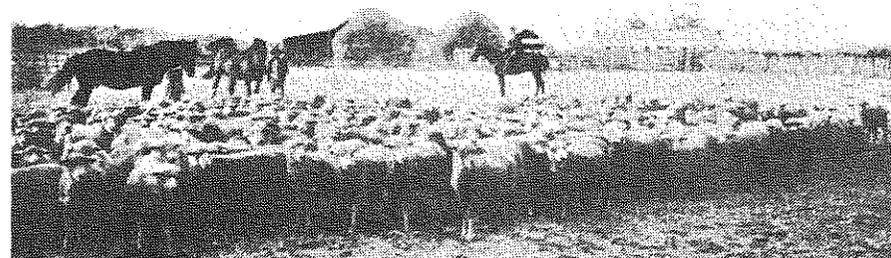
When the Grahams and other children reached school age, a school was built on the Grahams' property about a mile south of Geeralying siding. It was a canvas building with sliding shutters, and the teachers boarded nearby.

Turn left into Graham Road.

## 17. The Bridge

Graham Road

Until a bridge was built here the only way over the Williams River in flood was at the rock crossing. The first Europeans to settle here were the Tunstalls, who named it 'Billy Goat Farm'. Among the later owners were the Judds and the Waddells.



Michael Brown's homestead in 1903 (courtesy Battye Library, Encyclopedia of W.A., p.686).

## 18. Kunderning Pool

*Graham Road (north)*

*Private property: please view from the road*

This natural rock crossing and pool was on the Mourambine Track and part of the original tillage lease granted to George Dyson around 1870. The house was built by a stonemason named Morgan and in 1908 was bought by William L. Graham and renamed 'Minabbie'.

*Turn left into Dumberning Road.*

## 19. Dumberning Spring

*Dumberning Road (west)*

The Stevens family obtained a tillage lease of the freshwater springs here about 1871, and built a thick-walled mud bat house with a shingle roof.

## 20. Cooraminning

*Dumberning Road (east)*

This property, on the track from Narrakine to Williams, was a lease registered under the name of Bingham. Western Australia's first Surveyor General, John Septimus Roe, came up through here from the Tone River in 1835.

*Turn right into Narrogin Agricultural Road then left into Cooraminning Road.*

## 21. Torbling Spring

*Cooraminning Road (east)*

Originally an Aboriginal watering hole, an orchard was established here by William Graham about 1900. The farm was run by their youngest son, Gordon, as one of the earliest dairies in Narrogin.

*Turn right into Katta Road.*

## 22. Firle

*Katta Road (south)*

Langman Johns and his family were among a number of South Australians who came to Narrogin around 1900. Johns farmed here at Firle, and when Narrogin became a municipality in 1906 he became its first Town Clerk.

*To get to Site 23, cross the railway and turn left into Mokine Road, then right into Graham Road, cross Great Southern Highway and turn left into Booth Street, left again into Havelock Street, then right into Marsh Street.*

## 23. Narrogin Brickworks

*Marsh Street*

The existing brickworks here are built on the site of the original brickworks established by Mr Goldsmith and Edward Livings about 1900.

Charles Quartermaine, one of the earliest residents in the Narrogin district, established his block near here in 1872. It was used as the exchange depot between York and Katanning. The grave on this site marked Brennan is believed to be that of one of Quartermaine's overseers.

*This completes the Narrogin Heritage Trail.*



*John Barron's first shearing plant at Minigin (courtesy Hall Collection, Narrogin and District Historical Society).*

# Acknowledgements

The **Narrogin Heritage Trail** was developed by the Shire of Narrogin and the Town of Narrogin, which acknowledge the assistance of the following:

- Narrogin Shire Bicentennial Community Committee
- Narrogin and Districts Tourist Bureau
- Narrogin and Districts Historical Society

# Photographs

The photographs in this brochure are courtesy of:

- Batty Library
- Narrogin and District Historical Society
- Peter Livings
- Mr F.A. Sharr
- Ms J. Simpson
- W.A. Heritage Committee

# Further Reading

Pustkuchen, O.E. **The Way Through: The Story of Narrogin**  
(Artlook Books, 1981)



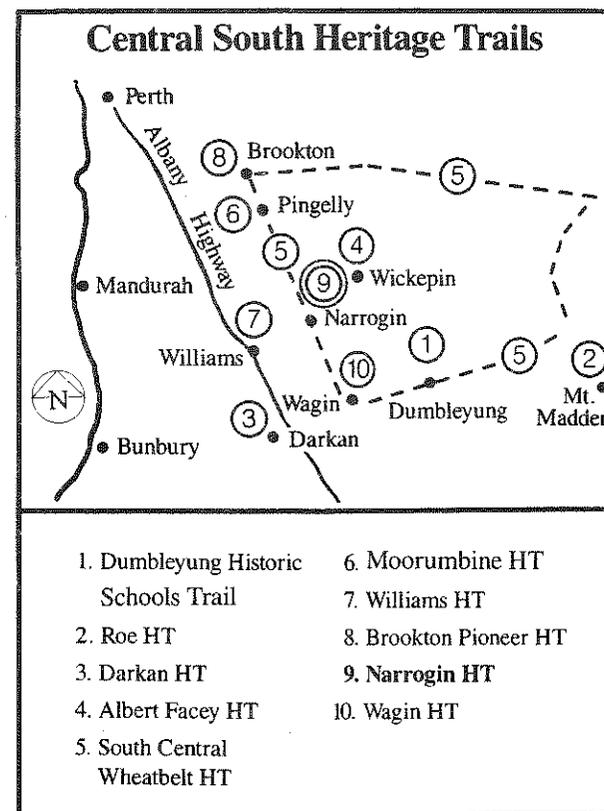
# W.A. Heritage Trails Network

A Bicentennial Project for  
Community Participation

The **Narrogin Heritage Trail** is part of the Heritage Trails Network, a project for community participation devised by the Western Australian Heritage Committee. To commemorate the 1988 Bicentenary, the project established a statewide network of 'Heritage Trails' — routes designed to enhance awareness and enjoyment of Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

The Heritage Trails Network was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments under the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program.

The map below indicates Heritage Trails in the Central South Region of Western Australia.



Further Information: W.A. Heritage Committee (09) 322 4375.