

# Dumbleyung

## HISTORICAL WALK



DUMBLEYUNG TOWNSITE ABOUT 1928



1

TOWN HALL

**1. TOWN HALL** | The original wooden town hall was built, in 1909, adjacent to this site. In 1929 a group of independent citizens, known as the Hall Committee, lobbied and built Dumbleyung's second town hall. They struggled to meet the loan repayments so the Dumbleyung Road Board took control and managed the building. In 1962 the Shire Offices were built adjoining the hall. Situated at the rear of the hall is the powerhouse building which provided DC power from 1929 until mid 1960s when Dumbleyung was connected to 240 volt electricity. The building now houses the community and shire



2

HISTORICAL PRECINCT

**2. HISTORICAL PRECINCT** | Known as the Historical Caravan Park because of its links with the past. Home to Malcolm's old shop, the first bank and Doctor's house (Dr Lovegrove), an overnight prisoner shelter, warehouse for the post office and Malcolm and Co, plus stables. In the 1920s Harry and Ruby Wann built a house and shop which fronted onto Harvey Street. The family sold fresh produce mostly grown in their market gardens situated at Sowden's farm and Nunagin.archives.



3

POLICE BARRACKS

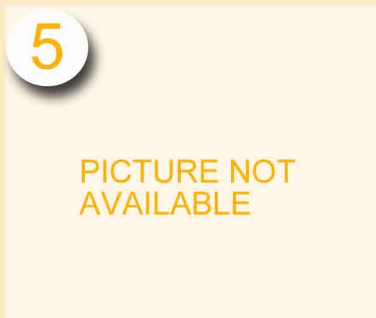
**3. THE ORIGINAL POLICE BARRACKS** | Constable Miller established a police barracks on this site on 5 January 1911. Prisoners were tethered to trees or logs until facilities were completed. In 1913 a cottage, outbuildings, station office, a two cell gaol, horse paddock and stables were erected. These buildings were demolished in 1980 and a new police complex built in Absolon Street.archives.



4

SCHOOL

**4. SCHOOL** | Originally school classes were held in the town hall until the wooden school building was opened on 31 July 1912. Numbers increased after WWII when district schools were closed and children were transported by bus to Dumbleyung. The bristle units were installed in 1951 and a comprehensive building campaign started in the 1960s, culminating with the opening of the Dumbleyung District High School in 1968. Thirty one years later the district high school closed and the school resumed its status as a primary school.



5

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

RSL HALL

**5. RSL HALL** | Originally the site of the RSL hall. The little corrugated iron building was previously a dis-used school until re-erected in 1949 for use by the RSL and Ladies Auxiliary. The hall had many uses including an op-shop, overflow classroom for the school children during the evacuation and home to the Buffalo Lodge members. The building fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1986.



6

ST AUGUSTINE'S

**6. ST AUGUSTINE'S** | The site of the first church in Dumbleyung built by the Baptist congregation and opened in 1912. The church closed its doors in 1918 and three years later Father John Frewer purchased the building on behalf of the Church of England. In 1958 this brick building replaced the old wooden structure. In 1997 St Augustine's became the home of the Anglican and Uniting congregations.



7

GOLDFIELDS HOUSE

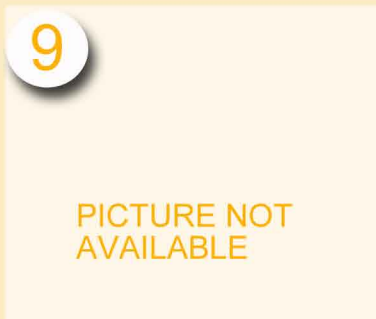
**7. GOLDFIELDS HOUSE** | Dumbleyung's best example of a restored Goldfield's House. A number of houses were purchased in the Goldfields, dismantled board by board and reassembled in Dumbleyung. This house was built in 1921 by Wilson Williams as a wedding gift for his bride Jess Basham. Restoration work was carried out by Grant and Felicity Cronin in the 1990s.



8

TOC H

**8. TOC H** | The site of the TOC H Headquarters from 1938 until the early 1950s. Talbot House originated in Belgium during WWI and offered fellowship and support to the soldiers. The movement spread worldwide and local resident Charles Morgan, an ex UK army officer, established the Dumbleyung branch. The members did voluntary work within the community. The 4 points on the TOC H compass were: To think fairly. To love widely. To witness humbly. To build bravely. The building housed a boy's club and during WWII was the headquarters for the Volunteer Air Observer Corps.



9

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

KELLOW'S GARAGE

**9. KELLOW'S GARAGE** | Les Kellow built the garage in 1959 and in 1961 it was leased to Maurie Scullard, Robin Kellow and Ross McDonald. Les sold to the Co-Op in 1974. The Co-Op garage operated until 1987 after which a number of independent owners ran the business. In 1998 Mike and Esme Dennett established Dumbleyung Engineering.



10

NEW AUSTRALIANS

**10. NEW AUSTRALIANS** | After WWII ended many Displaced Persons of European origin arrived in Western Australian country towns. Their passage was paid for by the Australian Government in return for two years work/service. Dumbleyung's New Australians lived along the railway line in tents or shacks made of railway sleepers or in Nissan Huts. Later wooden cottages were built. Kas Dudek planted the sugar gums whilst a resident.

**GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES** | The area between the railway line and Bartram Road contained extensive open and covered grain storage facilities which were eventually demolished when new facilities were erected in their current position.

**CROWN LAND CAMP** | On the opposite side of the railway line closer to Bi-Centennial Park was an area commonly used by the old timers. Here they erected their tents or humpies. In the 1950s the Aborigines lived there in tents until state housing was provided for them. Firstly the Aborigines were housed in Bartram Street and then they were integrated into the general township.



11

COFFEE PALACE

**11. COFFEE PALACE** | Coffee Palaces were set up by the Temperance Society as alcohol free establishments offering refreshments, accommodation and a venue for functions such as wedding receptions. Chas P Ashton built the Coffee Palace in 1910 and also the building next door, the billiard saloon. The Coffee Palace burnt to the ground in 1930 and within a few years Ross and Gwen McDonald constructed this residence on the site.

**GENERAL AGENCY BUSINESS** | The building over the road was built by Mr van Barneveld in the 1950s. Keith and Molly Nicholls (1957 to 1977) and Norm and Beryl Robinson (1977 to 1986) operated a farm merchandise business.



12

RAILWAY STATION

**12. RAILWAY STATION** | The planning and surveying of the Wagin to Dumbleyung light industrial railway line began in May 1905. The line reached Dumbleyung in 1907 but was not officially opened until 5 years later when Premier Scadden was able to open both the Wagin to Dumbleyung and the recently completed Dumbleyung to Merilup (Kukerin) lines. 800 people attended the gala opening. Dumbleyung has one of the last near complete railway precincts of its type in WA. The federation style station master's house (diagonally opposite) was built in 1912 and the station building in 1913. After transporting passengers, livestock, goods and mail, the station closed in 1982.

Discover our 29 historical plaques on the footpaths of town

1.5 Hours

2km

Don't forget your separate map for directions to find our historical plaques!