

THIS IS NOONGAR BOODJAR (COUNTRY) OF THE BINDJAREB TRIBE

The Brunswick area lies on Noongar Boodja (Country) and has been cared for by Noongar people for tens of thousands of years, long before European settlement began in the late nineteenth century. The area is most commonly associated with the Pindjarup Noongar people, whose Country extends through the lower Murray River and Brunswick districts.

The Brunswick River, known to Noongar people as Mealup Bilya, was, and remains, a significant cultural and ecological feature of the region. First settled in the 1830s, Brunswick takes its name from the river, though the town itself was not officially gazetted until 1898, when the Collie railway line branched from the main Perth–Bunbury line.

William Forrest, father of Western Australia's first Premier, John Forrest, was employed to build a bridge over the Brunswick River near Australind. Opened in 1845, the bridge allowed settlers to move inland from the sandy coastal areas to more fertile farming land around what became known as Brunswick.

The first train passed through Brunswick Junction Station in 1893. When the Collie railway line officially opened in 1898, Brunswick became an important railway junction south of the river. At the time, the rail journey between Brunswick and the Collie coalfields was regarded as one of the most scenic routes in Western Australia.

Brunswick is perhaps best known for its long connection to the dairy industry and the iconic Brownes Dairy creamery. The Brownes Dairy Brunswick Creamery was established in the 1920s by founder Edward Browne and has remained in operation ever since.



BRUNSWICK

HERITAGE TRAILS

SUPPORTED BY



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Cover photo: Melville Park. Credit Battye Library.

HARVEY REGION

THE BRUNSWICK HERITAGE WALK TRAIL

Brunswick developed from a small riverside settlement into an important rural service town, shaped by the Brunswick River/Mealup Bilya, the arrival of the railway in the late 19th century, and the growth of the dairy and agricultural industries. Over time, these forces supported steady population growth and established Brunswick as a key centre for surrounding farming communities. The walking trail invites you to explore the people, places, and moments that define Brunswick's past.

1

BRUNSWICK INFORMATION BAY & BOARDING HOUSE

This is the starting point of the trail, marked by a map of the Brunswick town centre. The site was once home to a boarding house for local workers and later operated as a pharmacy.

2

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 1907

This church remains one of Brunswick's most charming landmarks, rich with local history and community spirit. Designed by architect, F.W. Steere and built by William Rafferty of Roelands, it still houses treasured items donated by generations of parishioners.

3

DORRIE'S CORNER & COSY CORNER TEAROOMS SITE

Locals affectionately refer to this site as Dorrie's Corner, named after Henry Knighton "Blue" Dorries and his wife Ethel Mary "Molly" Dorries, who ran the Brunswick General Store from 1948 to the early 1960s.

4

BRUNSWICK PIONEER & COMMUNITY WALL AND BRUNSWICK JUNCTION RAIL HERITAGE DISPLAY

The Brunswick Pioneer & Community Wall commemorates early settlers and past residents of the district. A shaded picnic area is located behind the wall which includes a display on the Rail Heritage of Brunswick.

5

BRUNSWICK DISTRICT BOWLING CLUB 1958

Established in 1958, the Brunswick District Bowling Club became a valued community gathering place after years of local fundraising. Built through strong community effort, the club reflects Brunswick's long-standing social spirit.

6

UPPER BRUNSWICK RIVER ROAD BRIDGE 1929

This bridge has been a vital crossing point for the Brunswick community since the first timber bridge, and then the current bridge, built in 1929. The bridge collapsed due to flooding in 1964, heavily impacting the Brunswick community.

6

BRUNSWICK RIVER SWIMMING HOLE 1952

The Brunswick River Swimming Hole became a much-loved gathering place for Brunswick locals and visitors. For decades, the swimming hole hosted swimming lessons and carnivals.

7

BRUNSWICK HOTEL 1916

Opened in 1916, the Brunswick Hotel quickly became the cornerstone of social life of Brunswick. Now known as the Brunswick Tavern, the historic building has undergone extensive renovations over the years.

8

FORMER POLICE STATION PRECINCT*

Completed in 1954 after decades of lobbying by the Brunswick community and Roads Board, the Police Station represented a major milestone in improving safety and law enforcement in the town.

9

BRUNSWICK JUNCTION POST OFFICE 1896

Built in 1896 for £400, the Brunswick Junction Post Office became an essential communication hub for the growing community. Aside from minor alterations, the same building still stands and serves the Brunswick community as a licensed post office.

10

BRUNSWICK HALL

First opening in 1894 on land donated by David Eedle, Brunswick Hall was built in stages and quickly became the heart of Brunswick, hosting dances, meetings and official Road Board sessions as the district grew.

10

BRUNSWICK WAR MEMORIAL PRECINCT

Erected in 1947, the Brunswick War Memorial Precinct honours the district's men who served in WWI and WW2. The precinct features a memorial arch, rose garden, plaques and a gun.

11

BRUNSWICK RECREATION GROUND 1930S

Established in the early 1930's, the Recreation Ground became the heart of community life in Brunswick, hosting sport, agricultural events and social gatherings. It has hosted the Brunswick Agricultural show since its inception in 1932.

12

OUR LADY'S ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Opened and blessed in 1922 by Archbishop Clune, Our Lady's Assumption Catholic Church was established to serve a growing Catholic community, especially after the arrival of Italian migrants in the 1930s and Polish families after World War II.

13

BROWNES DAIRY 1926*

Brownes Dairy expanded to Brunswick in 1926 with the construction of a wooden factory, marking the beginning of large-scale dairy production in the South West. Later evolving into Peters Creameries in 1953, with a modern factory opening in 1955.

14

BRUNSWICK JUNCTION RAILWAY PRECINCT SITE 1893

The opening of the Brunswick Junction Railway Precinct marked the beginnings of settlement in the area, quickly becoming a stop with sidings, bridges and facilities supporting rail traffic from the Collie coalfields.

* Buildings and properties that are privately owned and are not open to the public.

H State Registered Place

BRUNSWICK HERITAGE TRAILS



WALKING TRAIL

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- 6 ALVERSTOKE FARM
- 7 CLIFTON SCHOOL
- 8 BRIDGEMORE AND BRUNSWICK STATE FARM
- 9 WEDDERBURN PARK

15

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BRUNSWICK SITE 1932

The Brunswick branch was established in 1932, meeting in local venues, before raising funds to build a dedicated CWA space in 1935 costing them 324 pounds, 7 shillings and 1 penny.

16

OMMANEY ROAD WORKSHOPS*

From the 1930s, the Ommaney Road Workshops were a vital working site for Brunswick, beginning with blacksmith, Victor Thurstun who serviced local farmers by shoeing horses and repairing tools at his forge.

17

DAFF'S GREENGROCER AND CAFE

Established in 1940, Daff's Greengrocer and Cafe became a much-loved local institution, serving fresh produce, groceries and deli goods to generations of Brunswick residents.

18

FORMER POWER STATION PRECINCT*

Constructed in 1931, this site played an important role in bringing electricity to Brunswick during a period of rapid growth in the district. The site reflects the town's early infrastructure developments.

THE BRUNSWICK HERITAGE DRIVE TRAIL

As you travel through Brunswick, the town's story unfolds along the road. From its origins beside the Brunswick River (Mealup Bilya) to its transformation following the arrival of the railway and the rise of dairying and agriculture. These historic forces shaped a thriving service centre, and today the Brunswick Heritage Drive Trail invites you to explore the places and landmarks that reflect Brunswick's growth and enduring role at the heart of the surrounding farming district.

1

BRUNSWICK STATE SCHOOL SITE 1896

This was the location of Brunswick's second school. The site was donated by a local landowner for community education. In 1966, the school relocated to its current site on Vincent Street, however several trees planted by students still remain, marking the original site.

2

VIEWBANK FARM 1860S*

Established in the late 1860s by pioneer settler, John Crampton. The homestead became an important early farming property in the area. In later year, Viewbank operated as a boarding house and licensed premises.

3

MELVILLE PARK

Melville Park is one of the earliest farming properties in Brunswick, with a history dating back to 1849. The property reflects the development of agriculture and pastoral life along the Brunswick River.

4

FROGMORE ESTATE*

Settled in 1843 by Scottish settler, David Eedle, and later occupied by the Heppingstone family, Frogmore remains an important reminder of Brunswick's pioneering agricultural history and early settlement.

5

OLD SCHOOL HOUSE SITE AT FROGMORE*

Built in 1864 by early settlers as Brunswick's first school. The simple schoolhouse served children from the surrounding farming community and was also used for church services and community gatherings in Brunswick's early years.

6 H

ALVERSTOKE FARM*

Established in 1842 by Marshall Waller Clifton, Chief Commissioner of Western Australian Land Company, it became the first farm in the area, producing wheat barley and potatoes for the surrounding district.

7

CLIFTON SCHOOL*

The Clifton family donated land to support a promised school for early settlers in 1905. Located on the corner of Clifton and Alverstoke Roads, the school became the centre of education and community life in Brunswick.

8

BRIDGEMORE AND BRUNSWICK STATE FARM*

This farm was established in 1900 by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture on land that originally formed part of James Perren's property, Bridgemore, which was used as an experimental farm.

9

WEDDERBURN PARK*

Acquired in 1842 by Dr John Ferguson, Wedderburn Park was one of the earliest pastoral properties in Brunswick. The site was later developed and managed by one of Ferguson's early servants.

Brunswick Junction Post Office 1938.
Credit National Australian Archive



Brunswick Hall 1963.
Credit Harvey History Online



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