

# 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.

If you wish for a longer stroll continue to St Mary's or even the Mechanics Institute.

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 Commercial Rd (cont)

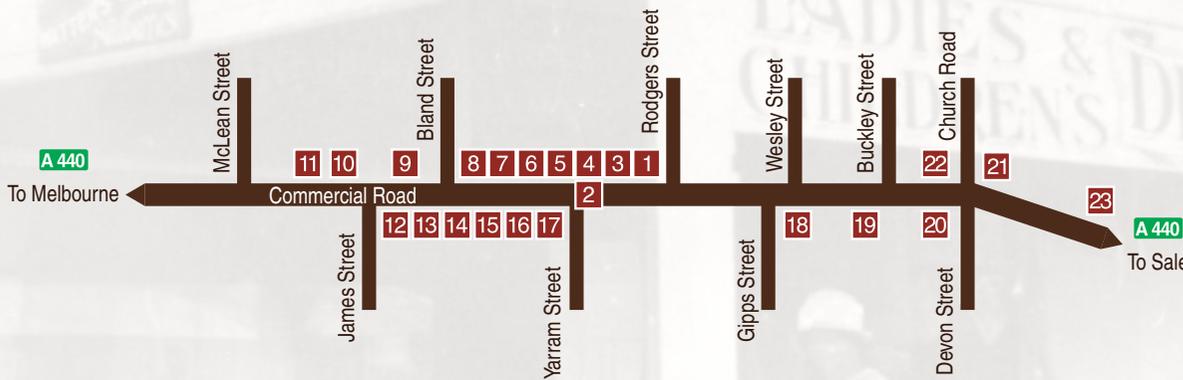
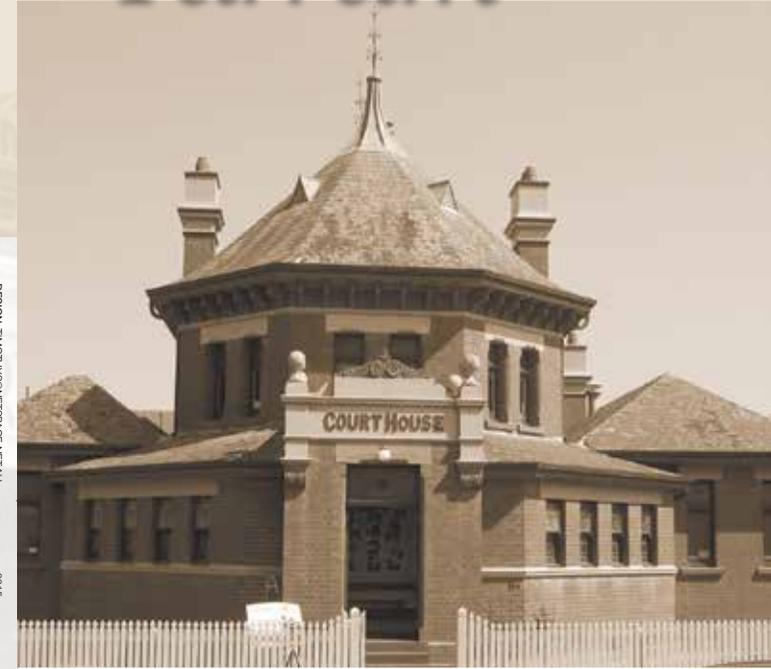
### 10. Duke's Yarram Hotel

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.

### 11. Yarram's First Cemetery

(Est. 1873). In 1873 land was leased from John Walsh to establish a cemetery, 54 burials were recorded by the 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.

# Historic Yarram



DESIGN: TIMOTHY/SUNSPACE/NETAU 0915

became the centre for balls, concerts and meetings and also provided a library, run by Mr Kay and Mr Newberry.

### 22. 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.

### 23. 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. It became a laboratory for Murray Goulburn - now the home of YDHS which opened in 2012.



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

Front Cover: Yarram Court House.

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Theatre Cenote  
St Mary's Courthouse  
Butter Factory

# 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.

### 1. 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 - there is still a café on the site today. A banquet and reception room was also included in the building. Today the building houses a clothing and drapery store.

### 2. Cenotaph

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.

### 3. Regent Theatre

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

### 4. 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.

### 5. 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.

### 6. 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.

### 7. 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.

### 8. Lords Corner

Former site of a Coffee Palace 1904. Later Lords Chemist. Mr H Barlow opened a Coffee Palace on this site in March 1904. Lords Chemists then occupied the site for a number of years. It is now the premises of Yarram Real Estate. Yarram Betta Home Living occupies the Old Gilpin building next door.

### 9. Union Bank

Opened in July 1914. Today this building is used as the Yarram Community Learning Centre for Adult Education.



# East Side Commercial Rd

## 12. 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.

### 13. 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 - now a pizza restaurant.

### 14. Club Hotel

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

### 15. 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.

### 16. 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.

### 17. 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 - now a ladies hairdresser.

### 18. 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.

### 19. 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.

### LONGER LOOP

### 20. 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.

### 21. 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