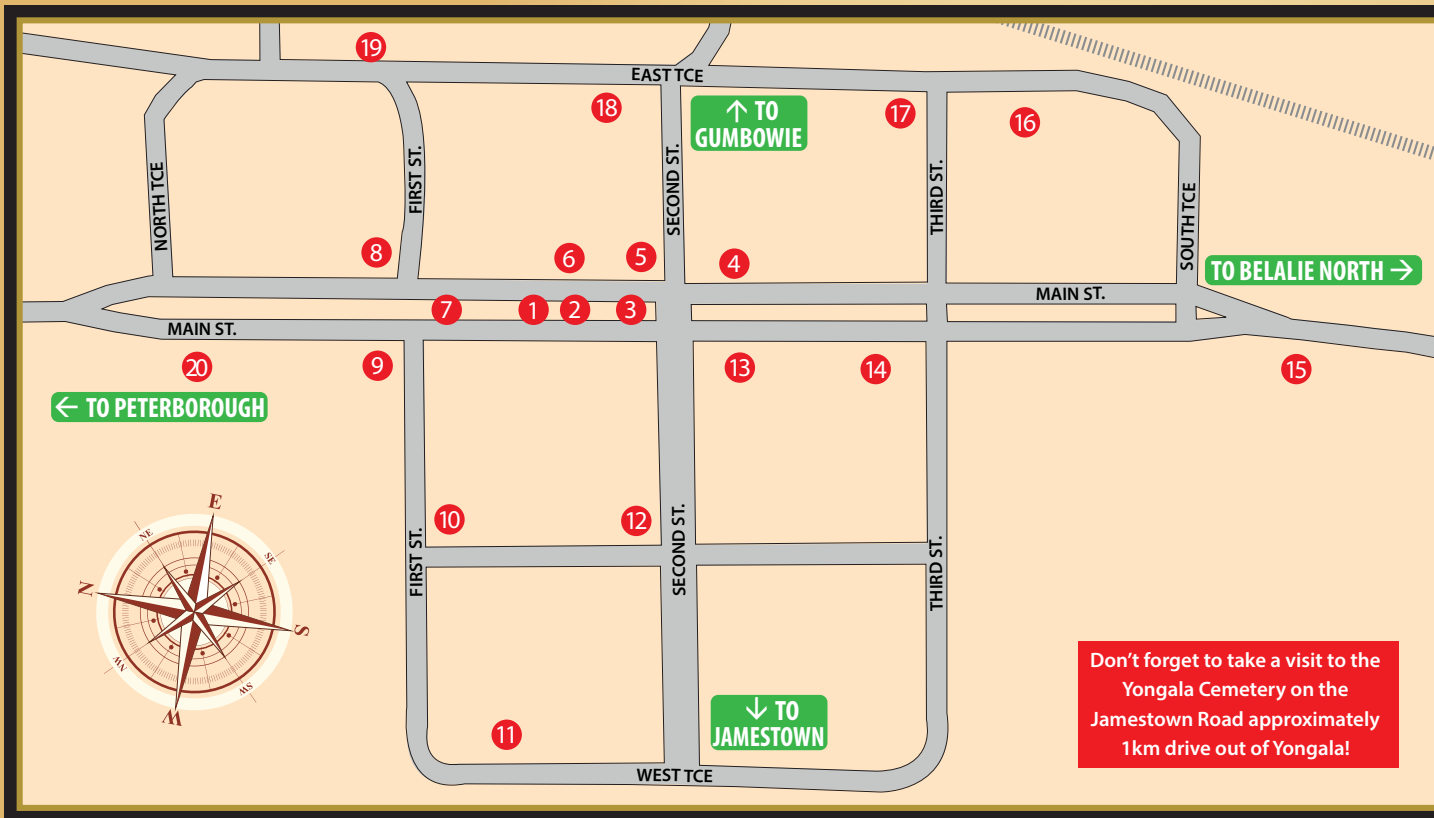


HERITAGE TRAIL



- 1 YONGALA HISTORY & SS YONGALA
- 2 MAP OF HERITAGE TRAIL
- 3 POST OFFICE WITH WEATHER INFORMATION
- 4 GARAGE & DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS
- 5 GLOBE HOTEL
- 6 TURNER'S BAKERY
- 7 HODBY'S STORE
- 8 YONGALA HOTEL
- 9 THE BUTTER FACTORY
- 10 THE INSTITUTE
- 11 POLICE STATION
- 12 METHODIST CHURCH
- 13 THE NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA
- 14 CHURCH OF ENGLAND
- 15 RECREATION PARK
- 16 PUBLIC SCHOOL
- 17 CATHOLIC CHURCH
- 18 FLOUR MILL
- 19 RAILWAY STATION
- 20 EARLY BUSINESSES

THE ROTUNDA

After many years of requests by the townspeople and the Yongala Brass Band, the rotunda was finally opened on the 13th of January 1930. In the early years, the rotunda was connected to the local electricity supply and would be lit up at night for performances. The Yongala Brass Band had made quite a name for itself in the years that it had been performing. They had even been selected to play in Adelaide at the retirement function for a State Governor.



THE WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial is made from Angaston marble and was unveiled on the 22nd August 1921 by Mr Benjamin Potter, who had lost three of four sons on the 2nd and 3rd of September 1916 at Mouquet Farm during the Battle of Pozieres.

Listed on the memorial are the names of the men from the district who were killed in action during World War I. There is a Roll of Honour in the hall that lists all the people from the district who served in this conflict. A later addition was a pedestal at each end of monument were for the men from the district killed in action during World War II.

YONGALA

By the 1850s, the South Australian Government was offering parcels of land as Pastoral Leases in an effort to get the colony developing. Settlers were arriving on a regular basis, in particular, from the UK, Ireland, Poland and Germany. The first in this area was in 1851 and was a Pastoral Lease of 42 square miles and became known as the Yongala Run. This property became an important launching point for a number of explorers heading through the northern part of the colony and eventually through to Central Australia and Northern Australia.

By the early 1860s, with the closure of the Burra copper mines and continued population growth in the colony, there was a push to open up these northern areas for agriculture. The Surveyor General George Goyder had surveyed the far north in 1858 and this had led to favourable reports. In 1868 the Pastoral Leases were being taken back by the Government and the regions were divided into areas of 100 square miles. These areas became known as "Hundreds". Generally parcels of land covering one square mile, 640 acres, were offered for sale. The Hundred of Yongala was proclaimed in 1871. "Yongala" is derived from a local aboriginal dialect phrase, yongalacowie and means roughly broad water.

The settlement of Yongala began to develop in the area about a mile to the South West of the current town as there was a stock route that went through there coming down from Farina in the north, to Stockport in the south, following watering holes.

A stage coach for passengers, mail and freight also used this route. Unfortunately, even in years of low rainfall, this area became very boggy and flooded easily. The current township site was selected and Yongala was proclaimed in 1876.



Within twenty years a bustling community had developed in support of the farming families that had moved in. Three churches sprang up, a magnificent Institute, two hotels, a variety of general stores, three blacksmiths, flour mill, butter factory, school, police station and a recreation park for a multitude of sporting activities, two banks and a number of community groups such as CWA, Brass Band and in later years Red Cross, RSL and Agricultural Society. Another big boon for the town came in 1880 with the decision that the railway from the mines in Broken Hill to the smelters in Pt Pirie would come through Yongala.

Post WW2 saw the steady decline of the town. Roads improved and people could travel to the surrounding larger towns more easily. Improvements in farming equipment and methods saw the need for workers decline. Small farms got swallowed up by bigger farms and families left the district. By the time the township's centenary was celebrated in 1974 there was no longer a busy rail yard, the school had an average enrolment of 14, only one hotel and one mixed agriculture/electrical business had survived. The Post Office was still operating and included a small basic general store from the premises. The Catholic and Methodist Churches still had a weekly service but no ministers resided in the town. Tennis and cricket were the only two sports surviving but the RSL, CWA, Red Cross and Ag Society were still supporting the community.

In April 1974, Yongala held a weekend of celebrations for the centenary of the settlement and township. Big drawcard events included the Centenary Ball on the Friday night, Back to School and Centenary stone unveiling on the Saturday afternoon and a multi denominational church service on the Sunday. Over 600 people returned to Yongala for the celebrations. A visit to the town's cemetery, about a kilometre to the west along the main road to Jamestown, will provide another insight into the town. Many of the graves here are members of the founding families of the district.