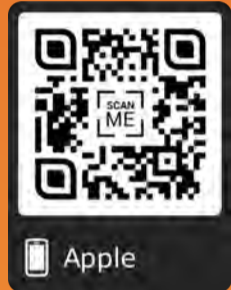


discover
our region

This walk forms part of our #NarrabriRegion Tourism Trails.

You can now experience it through text, image and audio on your mobile device.

Points of interest are zoned with iBeacon GPS technology, once in zone proximity, the device will alert and provide information of significance.



VISITOR INFORMATION



NARRABRI VISITOR CENTRE

Newell Highway, Narrabri NSW 2390
P: (02) 6799 6760 F: (02) 6799 6766
E: tourism@narrabri.nsw.gov.au
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self guided HISTORICAL WALK of the NARRABRI CREEK

explore
NARRABRI
region



3. MAJOR MITCHELL PLAQUE

1. VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
START HERE

11. NARRABRI AQUATIC CENTRE

9. CRICKET SIGHT BOARDS

12. BIG SKY CARAVAN PARK

TIBBEREENA STREET

4. CROSSING THEATRE

2. YOUTH SHACK

14. TOWN CLOCK
HOGAN OVAL

10. CADE MEMORIAL GATES
COLLINS PARK

5. THE RACEY

15. SPORTING WALL OF FAME

6. PRETTY BIRD TREE

8. THE PALMS

7. COLLINS PARK

13. VIOLET STREET BRIDGE



CAMERON STREET

SELINA STREET

VIOLET STREET

MAP NOT TO SCALE

The walk is 4 kilometres and will take approximately 2 hours to complete. In summer it is advisable to wear a hat and sunscreen and, take along a cool drink.

INTRODUCTION

THE NARRABRI CREEK HISTORICAL WALK gives you the opportunity to take a stroll along one of the most important elements of Narrabri Shire's survival - the Narrabri Creek.

This walk meanders through Narrabri's Sporting Mile, our shady park lands and along the scenic calm waters of the Narrabri Creek. The complete walk is 4 kilometres and will take approximately 2 hours to complete. In summer it is advisable to wear a hat and sunscreen and take along a cool drink.

1 Narrabri Shire Visitor Centre

The Centre is a Level 2 Accredited VIC, and is part of the Australian-wide AVIC network. It is housed in the former Australian Cotton Centre which was constructed in 2002 and operated by the Narrabri Shire Council. Tourism was recognised as a viable industry for Narrabri Shire in 1975 and in 2017 Tourism was valued at \$55 million.

A trip inside is an experience in itself. The Centre is brimming with fascinating information, delicious local and regional produce, and displays that will impress and captivate you. Here you can learn about the district's best attractions, discover local history and read about regional farming practices. The highlight is a cotton display, which boasts a genuine giant red cotton picker that guests can climb into and "operate".

Among the local and regional produce inside are: Lindy's Marinated Sundried Tomatoes, Cotton Seed oil products, olives and olive oils, Nelson's Honey, Tall Poppy Gourmet relishes and dressings, Lively Linseed mixes, Rosie's Honey Mustard Dressing, The Spice Trading Company spice and dip mixes, Treasured Traditions jams, Murrungundy Pistachios and Pilliga Pottery.

You will also find a fantastic selection of souvenirs to remind you of your time in the Shire. From hat pins, caps, collectible spoons and stickers to thermos mugs, drink bottles, t-shirts and trendy canvas prints. We also have a stylish range of Linen Press stationery, tea towels, mugs, aprons, tote and shopper bags, double and single oven mitts, and pot holders in botanical, maritime, blue wren, chicken and coloured themes. For the little ones, you will find a bounty of soft toys and other fun souvenirs, as well as a FREE Narrabri Shire activity book that will entertain them during your journey.



2 The Youth Shack

This was Panton Cottage and was where original Visitor Centre was located before moving to its present site, when the Visitor Centre moved the building was closed for some time before reopening as the Youth Shack around the end of 2015.

3 Major Mitchell Plaque

Major Thomas Mitchell was Narrabri's first tourist (with the possible exception of escaped convict The Barber). After his expedition in 1832 settlers quickly moved into the region.

Young Andrew Doyle and Patrick Quinn were among the first Europeans to take up runs in the district. This plaque was officially unveiled during the 2005 New England & North West Regional Historical Societies Conference.

Kamilaroi Highway Plaque

4 The Crossing Theatre

The Theatre derives its name from the old crossing place in the creek nearby. Built in 2002 at a cost of \$8 million, it was officially opened on November 28, 2002 and has become the premier entertainment venue for North Western, NSW.



5 The Racey

The Racey refers to a shallow expanse of water in the creek behind the current Crossing Theatre, so named because race horses were once exercised there.

These quiet waters were used as a swimming area, particularly by children, before the Olympic Pool was opened in 1958. Look across the Creek and you can see the Narrabri Golf Club and further down on your right hand side the Narrabri Hospital, newly built in 2011.

The Healing Seat

6 The Pretty Bird Tree

Remains of the Pretty Bird Tree on the bank of the Narrabri Creek behind Hogan's sporting oval. So named because of the pretty birds that chose to rest in its branches.

A favourite meeting place of past Kamilaroi people - where they would meet for a 'yabba up'. At one time there was a plaque on the tree but it was mysteriously removed and has not been seen since.

When the tree died it was cut down and the stump was cut in the shape of a seat, so people could sit and watch the waters of the Narrabri Creek. The song came later. It apparently no longer holds the significant place it once held for the local Indigenous people.

DID YOU KNOW that Aboriginal artist L.J. Hill has written and produced the captivating song, Pretty Bird Tree, in dedication to this sacred Indigenous place. It is through this track that Hill's skill as a songwriter truly shines. Without a hint of apology or recrimination, Hill evokes a gathering spot on the banks of the Namoi where Koori, fringe dwellers and whites would come to drink and spin yarns. "The Pretty Bird Tree, that was a sacred place," Hill whispers.

BIRD WATCHING

Narrabri Shire's impressive number of different ecosystems makes it a fantastic bird watching area. From the massive heights of Mt Kaputar to the scrub of the Pilliga Forest to the low lying wetlands of Yarrie Lake, these vastly different habitats sustain a huge range of birds. Call into the Visitor Centre to collect the latest Bird routes.

7 Collins Park

Named after Charles Collins, a member of one of our most prominent early families. The Collins family owned a department store from 1872 on the site of the present Coles in Maitland Street. Both Charles and Albert held the position of Mayor (Charles being the inaugural mayor) and both went on to be Representatives in the NSW Legislative Assembly.



8 The Palms

Turn left up the avenue of palms, the origins of which are obscure.

9 Cricket Sight Boards

These sight boards originally graced the hallowed Sydney Cricket Ground where they were repositioned between overs by two attendants. One fell asleep during a test match and had to be woken by the bowler. The sight boards were moved to their present location in 1990.

10 Cade Memorial Gates

Were erected in 1933 by the citizens in memory of the much loved Dr. FJR Cade. The adjacent ticket office was built in 1928 and moved to its present site in 1939.

11 Narrabri Aquatic Centre

Formerly the Olympic Swimming Pool. Although residents were convinced of the need to construct a town swimming facility as early as 1900, it was not until 1910 that a swimming club was formed and Council gave permission for baths to be erected in the creek at a site near Narrabri Creek Bridge.

A push for a formal swimming pool began in 1911, but it wasn't until much later that Mayor Athol Gleeson became the driving force behind the concept. At one time he staged a highly successful Narrabri Ball at Sydney Town Hall to help raise funds. The pool was opened by Olympic Gold medallist and record Breaker Lorraine Crapp in 1958 and was the training venue for local 1976 Olympian, Nira Stove.

After many years of service the old pool was replaced with the present Aquatic Centre which opened on June 5th 2013.

DID YOU KNOW that the pool was male only as swimming was segregated, until around 1920 when mixed bathing was allowed. The ladies formed their own club in 1911 and settled for a sandy spot further downstream to allow them some modicum of privacy.

12 Big Sky Caravan Park

This site is owned and controlled by the Shire and is leased out as a business. A great place for people to spend a few days relaxing on the bank of the Narrabri Creek in quiet comfort and perhaps throw a line in while they enjoy the scenery.

FISHING

The Namoi River meanders gently through the Shire from Boggabri to Pilliga with many top class fishing spots on the way. One such location is right in Narrabri along the banks of the Narrabri Creek. Whether you head down past the Violet Street bridge or just pick a spot off Cameron Park, the accessibility of this area accounts for much of its popularity. For further information or to collect a fishing map call into the Narrabri Shire Visitor Information Centre.

13 Violet Street Bridge

Continue past the Big Sky Caravan Park and turn right over the Violet Street Low Level Bridge, built as a by-pass until completion of the new Creek Bridge in 1977 for a pleasant stroll back along the river bank (which was once Chinese Gardens) and under the Creek Bridge to Cameron Park. Named after the Cameron family who donated the land.

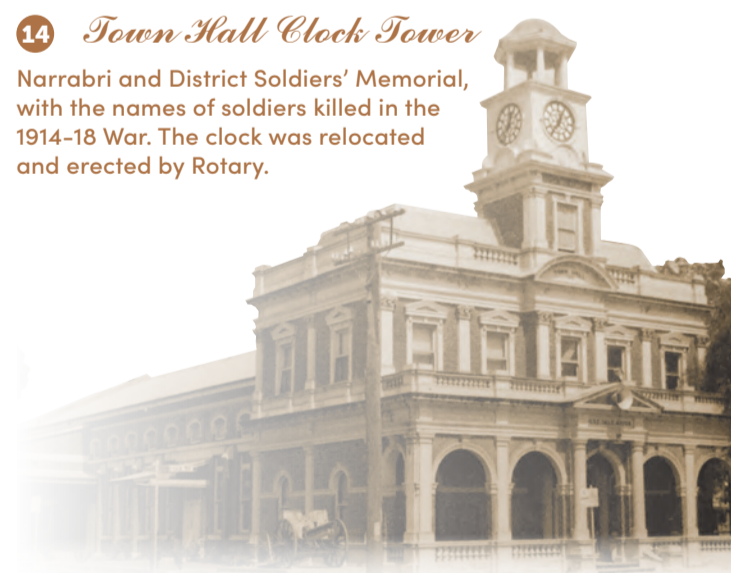
The popular Gypsy Willow Markets are held here on the first Saturday of each month. This area of the creek is a popular fishing spot for Golden Perch and Murray Cod.

Take the footpath back over the new Creek Bridge and turn left into Tibbereena Street past Leitch and Hogan ovals.

Colin Stanford Memorial

14 Town Hall Clock Tower

Narrabri and District Soldiers' Memorial, with the names of soldiers killed in the 1914-18 War. The clock was relocated and erected by Rotary.



Hogan and Leitch Ovals

15 The Sporting Wall of Fame

In 2001 Chanel 9 ran a competition to find the 'Sportiest Town in Australia' and Narrabri was announced as the winner. It took some time for the fact to sink in and when it did the Council decided to erect a 'Wall of Fame' to commemorate those sportspeople who had excelled with connections to Narrabri. It soon became apparent that there would be too many names to put them all on the Wall so the following criteria was set. Those names on the Wall have excelled either at State, National or World level and have been raised or spent the major part of their sporting life in Narrabri or started their sporting life in Narrabri. The Wall of Fame was opened in 2011.