



West Wimmera

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

• APSLEY • DERGHOLM • EDENHOPE • GOROKE •
• HARROW • KANIVA • SERVICETON •

Our Towns



Edenhope

Edenhope may be the regional hub for the shire, but the big smoke it ain't, and instead life here remains blissfully relaxed. Set along a pleasant main street of shops, galleries, antiques and a pub, Edenhope is best known for both its centrepiece lake and cricketing history.



STREETSCAPE

When rainfalls are healthy, Lake Wallace is abuzz with holidaymakers here for fishing, water-skiing and boating. At other times it remains a lovely spot for lakeside camping, picnicking, walks and fantastic birdwatching – including the rare opportunity to spot the prized brolga in its natural habitat. It was here on Lake Wallace's grassy banks where Australia's first international cricket team gathered to train. A cenotaph marks the spot where this remarkable story took place back in the 1860s.

While Edenhope may not be a stop on the silo art trail, it does boast some stunning murals. Most notable are the evocative artworks of the region's birdlife by West Wimmera artist Geoffrey Carran (who painted Goro's silo).

The town's Red Tail Gallery also features lovely exhibitions by regional artists. But it's the Now Dach's a Gallery that has tails wagging. While a museum dedicated to a sausage dog may seem a bit niche, that's all part of the fun, and the annual dachshund festival brings in four-legged friends from all over. Also be sure to drop into Edenhope Antiques for its wonderful array of vintage clothing, curios and collectibles.

For local info, drop by Edenhope's Visitor Centre located inside an historic courthouse that sits adjacent to a wooden 19th-century gaol. Here they can assist you on anything from where to see wildflowers to the best spots to spy red-tailed black cockatoos.



EDENHOPE TOURIST VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE — Open daily 10am - 3pm

96 Elizabeth St, Edenhope ☎ 03 5585 1509 ✉ boxgrove1@outlook.com 📱 Edenhope Tourism

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT 🌐 www.edenhopetourism.com

EDENHOPE TOWN MAP



Home to a tight-knit community, Kaniva is a proud, little town centred along a thoroughfare of historic buildings, pubs and whimsical landmarks. Halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide, this is sheep and wheat farming country – but with a colourful twist. For one, the sheep here are technicolour; the grain silo is a giant work of art; and the once-operational big windmill now takes pride of place as the town's iconic emblem.

The silo art is the town's big-draw attraction. Forming part of the brilliant 200km-long Silo Art Trail, Kaniva's stunning giant mural pays homage to the nearby Little Desert and is one not to miss. But before there was silo art, there was Sheep Art (www.kaniva.org/sheep-art.html). A delightful tribute to its sheep history, here you can follow the trail of glossy, beautifully painted sheep around town, learning of local stories as you go.

For history, the superbly curated Overland Museum takes you through all the romance of long-distance train travel from Melbourne to Adelaide, while the town's historical museum also offers a lovely step back in time.

Kids, meanwhile, will love Kaniva's old-fashioned puppet shop – as well as beautiful items for purchase, there's a theatre for marionette performances.

For local wildlife, wander over to the Wetlands and Fauna Park. Here you'll find an emu, albino kangaroos and the rare southern red-tailed black cockatoo. But for some real adventure, Kaniva is the perfect launching point for 4WD trips into the nearby Little Desert and Big Desert wilderness areas.

Download the Actionbound app and choose from walks, games and tours for all ages, all leaving from Kaniva Visitor Information Centre using your mobile phone.



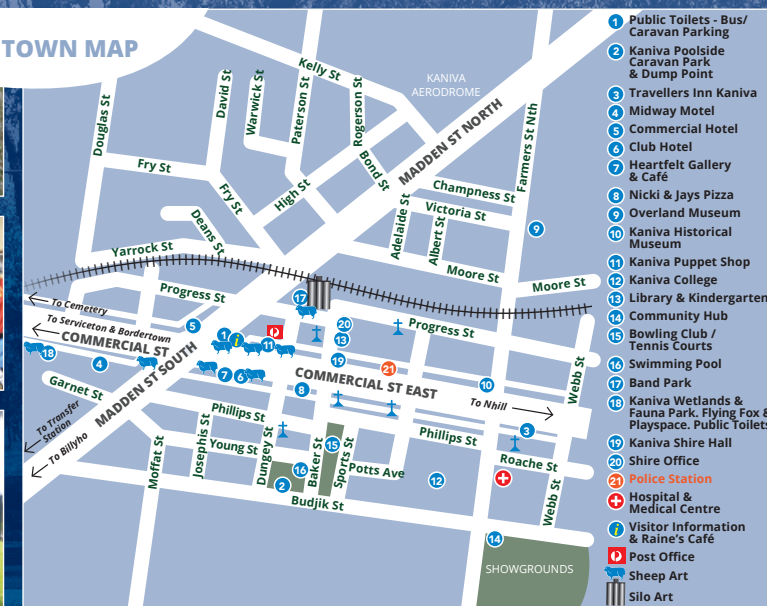
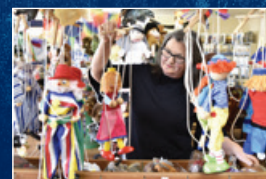
KANIVA VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE —

Open weekdays 8.30am - 4pm & weekends 9am - 2.30pm

📍 Raine's Café, 41 Commercial St, Kaniva 📞 03 5392 2756 📧 rainescafe@gmail.com 📱 Raine's Café

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT 🌐 www.kaniva.org

KANIVA TOWN MAP



Stretching out along the southern fringes of the Little Desert National Park, Goroke is a relaxed and rural town made of true Aussie outback grit. One of rugged good looks, its wide main street is home to a small and friendly community of farmers, workers and even a prized literary author. As well as a gateway to Little Desert and Mt Arapiles, Goroke has more recently found fame as a stop along the popular Silo Art Trail.

In the local Wotjobaluk dialect, Goroke means 'magpie', so it's appropriate the town's grain silo art bears the image of this iconic bird. Sharing space alongside a kookaburra and a galah, it's a beautiful triptych that makes for an essential stop.

Popular as a base for trips into the Little Desert, those with a 4WD (or a good pair of hiking boots) can tackle its sandy tracks to witness spring-time wildflowers, and, if lucky, spot its most famous resident – the Mallee Fowl.

Nearby Lake Charlegrark is very well known by campers for canoeing, swimming and fishing for Murray Cod.

Birdwatchers flock here to tick off endangered species such as brolga and freckled duck.

The annual Country Music Marathon also has folk boot-scooting in for a weekend of fun.

Take a step back in time and visit Black Cockatoo Collectibles.

Just east of Goroke, don't miss the Duff monument commemorating one of the nation's most famous bush stories. It was here where three young children went missing on the fringes of the Little Desert, only to be miraculously found 9 days later by Aboriginal trackers; a search led by none other than Djungadjinganook (better known as Dick-a-Dick) and Brimbunyah (Red Cap) two of Australia's first international cricketers.

GOROKE MAIN STREET



Travelling the forested road from Edenhope to Naracoorte will have you stumble upon the pretty little town of Apsley. Famous for its ripper art-deco pub, this is a town of fluctuating fortunes, but ultimately it's a place where life hasn't changed all too much for centuries. And that's, of course, what makes it so appealing.

Greeting you to the town is the endearing landmark of the world's biggest flowering gum. And while its best flowering days may be behind this 85-year-old tree, it remains an enduring tribute to the delightful eccentricities of Australian roadside attractions.

Apsley is a tiny town filled with gold nuggets of history. Predating the Melbourne Cup, the Apsley Racing Club was established back here in 1855, making it the oldest horseracing club in Victoria. And while it's since moved to Edenhope, the Apsley Cup remains one of West Wimmera's social events of the year.

It's a meet that's also hosted another race over the years – the Jimmy Tarpot Cup. While not held every year, this quirky backwards race is held in honour

of Apsley's most famous son, former Australian cricketer Murrumgunerrimin (aka Jimmy Tarpot) who, unsurprisingly, still holds the record for the fastest time running backwards at the MCG! Today he's commemorated with a plaque at the Apsley cemetery.

Visit the Federation Corner to read more about the town's history, before setting off on the Newland's Nature Walking Trail: a 5km loop through red gum to look out for the red-tailed black cockatoo and rare wildflowers. Nearby Lake Bringalbert is very popular for free camping, boating, fishing and birdwatching.

On the 10km stretch of road between Apsley and Lake Bringalbert, there are various Field art sculptures that add something extra to the already scenic route.



TOURIST VISITOR INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT APSLEY POST OFFICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.apsley.vic.au

APSLEY TOWN MAP



- 1 Public Toilets & Playground
- 2 Border Inn Hotel
- 3 Federation Corner Information Bay & Newlands Walk
- 4 RSL
- 5 Oval / Netball / Tennis
- 6 Old Apsley Racecourse
- 7 Hall
- 8 Cemetery
- 9 Police
- Post Office



NEWLAND'S NATURE WALKING TRAIL

Harrow

Harrow has a different feel to the rest of the West Wimmera. Set along the banks of the scenic Glenelg River, here silos and wheat farms give way to undulating paddocks and red gums. This a town bursting with history: its sleepy quaint streetscape is home to Victoria's oldest inland pub, its longest continuous licenced store and a 19th-century-listed heritage log lock up. And while it has one foot firmly in the past, the other is planted very much in the present with a dynamic local community passionate in keeping the town's legacy burning. And boy does this place have some stories to tell.

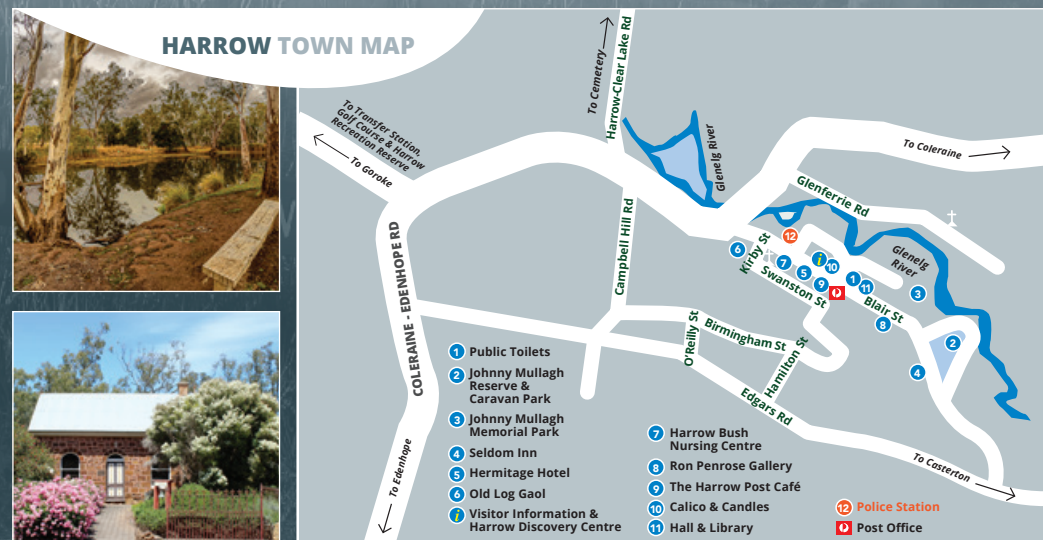
West Wimmera has produced its fair share of sporting heroes over the years, but none more celebrated than Unaarrimin – better known as Johnny Mullagh. Drop by the Discovery Centre to learn all about this champion Aboriginal cricketer and the incredible story behind Australia's first international XI. It's a stunning collection – including a collection of notable bats by cricketing greats and Sir Donald Bradman's last ever bat used in his infamous swansong match. But the highlight is the Johnny Mullagh Medal, an award handed to the player of the match in the MCG Boxing Day Test.

For more insight into the Indigenous culture of traditional owners of the land (the Wotjobaluk and Jardwarjali people) take a stroll along the Glenelg River where a signed walk leads you past scar trees, ring trees and, a bit further afield, canoe trees. Down here you can also fish for redfin alongside a sprawling campground among red gums.

From the annual cricket game to its theatrical sound-and-light production, Harrow knows how to put on a good show. And for further background on its history, drop in to its museum, where you'll find some unexpected finds including an original Ned Kelly death mask.



i HARROW DISCOVERY CENTRE — Open Mon - Sat 11am - 4pm (Closed Sundays)
 📍 Johnny Mullagh Interpretive Centre, Blair Street, Harrow 📞 03 5588 1387
 ✉ discover.harrow@gmail.com 🌐 harrowdiscoverycentre
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT 🌐 www.harrow.org.au



Dergholm

Adding another scenic layer to West Wimmera's tourist cache is the pristine bushland of Dergholm's state forest. Just a short drive south of Apsley, it makes for a wonderful nature retreat with an abundance of wildlife, bushwalks and camping among ancient granite rocks. And beyond the bush, Dergholm also has a superb outback pub, which for many is reason alone to visit.

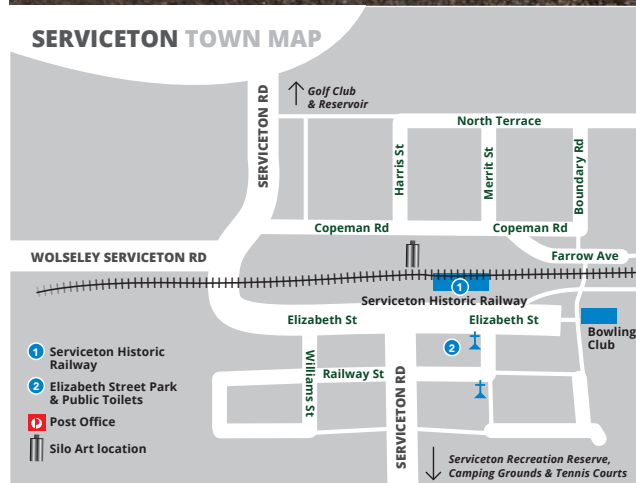


Dergholm's most famous attraction is Bailey's Rocks. Dating back some 500 millions years, these mysterious green-tinged granite boulders offer an evocative sight among the tranquil bushland. They're believed to be among the oldest granite rocks in the state, and it's a lovely spot for bushwalks and to pitch a tent under the stars. Here you'll see plenty of kangaroos and emus, but don't forget to look up at night to spot sugargliders leaping between trees. And come spring you'll be treated to the added bonus of rare orchids and wildflowers in bloom.

While there are no shops in Dergholm, miraculously it does have a pub. And it's a good one too, appearing out of the bush to serve up cold beers and its legendary woodfired pizzas on Sundays.

Serviceton

When it comes to train stations, few in Australia have more storied histories than Serviceton's grand old dame. Completed back in 1889, not only did this heritage-listed two-story red-brick building comprise 33 rooms (and 28 fireplaces), but also a customs house that stood in the middle of the disputed border dividing Victoria and South Australia.



Though the Overland does still fly through from Melbourne to Adelaide, it's hasn't stopped here since 1986. So these days it serves as a living museum, and one that feels remarkably intact. A train station like no other, come by to hear tales of train crashes and ghost stories before heading down to its basement that holds not just a jail (for prisoners being transferred interstate), but a morgue too.

Lamenting the closure of its refreshment rooms in 1981, the station was immortalised in the Tom Waits song 'Town with No Cheer'.

But to counterbalance this, more recent news announced that its grain silo would become the latest stop along the Silo Art Trail – news that's certain to bring back some cheer to this town!