



Colac Heritage Walk

Otway Trails

Look for the other Trail Notes in the series. Copies of these notes are downloadable from the following websites: www.visitotways.com www.visitapollobay.com www.otwaycoast.com

Look for the Otways trails symbol:



When walking in the Otways make sure you follow these simple tips:

Sudden and extreme weather changes are common in the Otways, so carry practical all-weather clothing and remember that your mobile phone may be out of range. Always carry water, food, matches and a torch in case of emergency. Take note of signs and landmarks. Advise someone of your intended location and estimated time of return.

Respect the environment and stay on marked paths. Do not damage vegetation or disturb wildlife. All native animals and plants are protected. No fires, including barbecues, can be lit on a day of total fire ban.



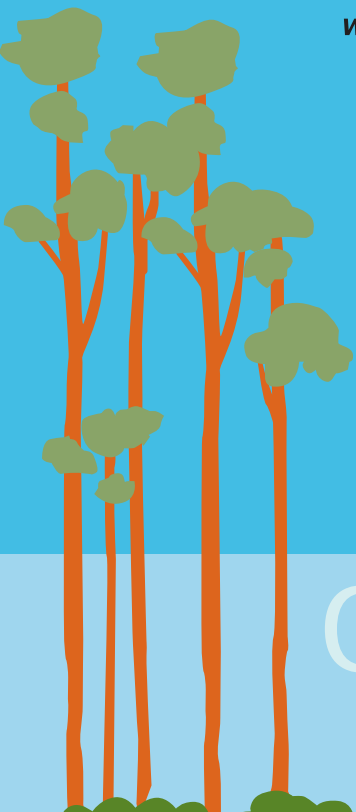
Great Ocean Road Visitor Information Centre

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Colac Visitor Information Centre

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Explore the history & architectural wonders of Colac



Otways Trails

Colac Heritage Walk cont.

Explore the history & Architectural wonders of Colac

29. Safeway Shopping Complex – was the site of the Municipal Saleyards until 1978 when the saleyards were relocated to a new site on the Ballarat road.



Dr Wynne's House

30. Lislea House – built in 1892 for Dr Wynne as a residence surgery. The building is now occupied by Quinn's Funeral Directors.

31. Glenora – originally built as a residence and surgery for Dr. Gibbs. This Edwardian building features carved timber mantle-pieces, staircases and stained glass windows. During World War II it was used as a boarding house. The premises are now occupied by solicitor's offices.

32. Austral Hotel – built in 1904 as a hotel The Brewers Arms, it is typical of the "Art Nouveau" style of architecture.

33. Parker Brothers – this building is Spanish mission style. Now operates as Parker's car yard.

34. Wesley Uniting Church – the church was built in 1925. In the grounds are stones from the original Methodist Church built in 1874 at 21 Murray St. (now the R.S.L.)

35. Our Gunyah – on the Corner of Grant and Manifold this Federation style private home was built in 1908.

36. No. 27–29 timber cottages – built in 1864.

37. No. 47 Brick Cottage – built circa

1872 for Mr. Humphrey Hearn.

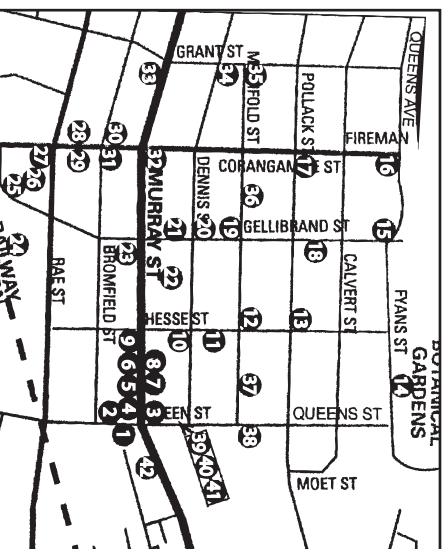
38. Court House & Police Station – built in 1973 on the site of the former Courthouse and Police Station of 1889. The original bluestone lock-up still stands.

39. No. 45 Wooden Hall – former Alsop's Garage.

40. No. 47 Queen Street Automotive – the brick structure was formerly Batson's Buslines.

41. No. 49 First Baby Health Centre – built in 1936 this was the first baby health centre.

42. No. 2 Prince of Wales Embroidery Boutique – this was built in 1874 and licensed in 1875. Constructed from local bricks for Mr. George Ball, it operated as a hotel until 1921. The stained glass window is where the main bar was situated.





The first reference of Aboriginal tribes in Colac was made in 1839, about the clan Gulidjan / Kolaccant (also known as) "Coladjin" (meaning fresh water) which belonged to the Wathaurong tribe. They lived on the north side of Lake Colac. The name Colac comes from this clan. In 1837 Hugh Murray set up camp on the banks of the Barongarook Creek. In 1864 Colac became a Shire and was gazetted as a City in 1960.

Start the tour from the car park of the Visitor information Centre

1. Visitor Information Centre– situated on the corner of Queen and Murray Streets, was built in 1987 as a 50th Anniversary project by the Colac Apex Club. Volunteer labour and donated local native timbers from the Otway timber industry helped this project. The centre is managed by the Colac Otway Shire with the assistance of volunteers.

2. Army Drill Hall– built in 1909.

3. No. 1 Murray Street – built in 1844 as an inn "Crook & Plaid" this was the sight of the first magistrate hearings. The present building was erected in 1871 for Adam Rae's "Western Stores". It has also been used by Dalgety's Stock Agents, a solicitor's office until 1978, a restaurant named The Crook & Plaid and has since housed various restaurants.

4. No. 4 Murray Street, former Post Office – built in 1876. A telephone exchange began operations in 1904 with 25 subscribers. The building now houses a Chinese restaurant. The building is protected by the National Heritage Committee, therefore the current tenants are not permitted to erect advertising signs.

5. No. 6 Murray Street, Shire of Colac Hall – the present building was erected in 1879 when the first Shire hall was declared unsafe just 14 years after completion. (1865-1879). Colac Adult Education and Aged Care Services now occupy the building.

6. 10 Murray Street, Commercial Hotel – established by Mr. Willis in 1875. Recently refurbished it is now called Colac Central Hotel.

7. No. 15 Murray Street, Former Union Bank – built in 1916, now houses an antique shop.

8. R.S.L. – originally opened as The Regent Theatre in 1925. It was the early site of the Methodist Church built in 1874.

9. No. 26 Murray Street – built in 1885. This building was formerly used as a gentleman's club, then the National Bank and is now occupied by building surveyors.

10. Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Offices–built in 1986.

11. Masonic Lodge Hall – built by Gilbert Pell in 1923.

12. St. Andrew's Uniting Church – built in 1877. It was Colac's 3rd Presbyterian Church. The bluestone apparently came from New Zealand as ballast for sailing ships on their way to the gold rush.

13. St. John's Church of England – built in 1891 by Mr Humphrey Hearn. View the stained glass window honouring pioneers of the Irrewillipe area, south-west of Colac.

14. Colac Botanic Gardens – the land was reserved by the government in 1865. Mr William Guilfoyle, a director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, redesigned the layout in 1910. The slope facing the Lake was terraced to provide a viewing point for the public for events such as rowing regattas. The caretaker's cottage now houses The Botanic Gardens Café and Gallery. The Bilson Gates were donated by Mr. Bilson whose general merchandise store was located where the Target store now stands. A road and paths throughout the gardens allow access for driving or walking to view the gardens (This is only one of two drive through botanic gardens in the state.)

15. St Mary's Catholic Church – built in 1980 on the site of the original church. The current church was designed by architect Bryan Dowling. Notice the leadlight windows depicting the Stations of the Cross. The original church, which was built in 1883, was demolished as repairs became impractical and the congregation had outgrown the church.

16. No. 15 Queens Avenue – former Convent of Mercy was built in 1889 for the Sisters of Mercy who brought Catholic education to Colac in 1888. This is now a retirement village.

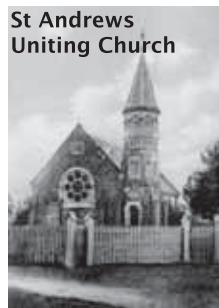
17. No. 19 – former Presbyterian Manse. No 21, also a former Presbyterian Manse, was built in 1855 and is now a private residence.

18. No. 16 The Elms – built in 1883 for Dr. Foster and now operating as a B&B. The wooden building beside the house is the original billiard room.

19. No. 29 Derrinook – built in 1890 for Dr. William Brown for use as a private hospital. It was converted into flats in 1935.

20. Duffs Café – built in 1870 as the Lodge Hall for the Independent Order Of Odd Fellows. Further extensions were added in 1891 and 1910. The building was later used as a community hall and by The Colac Players before being used for many years by panel beaters. Restored in 1999 as Duff's Café.

21. No. 45, Legacy House – this is thought to be the first brick veneer house in Colac. Built as a dental surgery.



22. Memorial Square –Home of 6 day race - held annually in November. Also known as Market Square. The Elm trees nearing the end of their lifespan, were planted in 1876. They will be replaced over the next 25 years. In 1896 the north-west corner became home to the Central Bowling Club until 1995 when they relocated to Wilson St. The clubhouse is now in Forrest as a Country Guest House B&B. The former peace library, which was demolished in 1970, had been sited on the south-east corner. The War Memorial was built in 1921 and unveiled in 1924 to commemorate those who had fought in WW1.

23. Union Club Hotel – built in 1877 by J. Henric on the site of an old wooden Market Square Hotel. It has operated as a residential hotel ever since.

24. Colac Railway Station – the Colac to Geelong line opened in 1877 amid great festivities. The wooden building was erected as a temporary station, a poor relation to the other brick and blue stone stations along the line. The turntable was recommissioned in 1984 after being restored (one of the very few in Victoria). The rail service is now operated by V/Line. Start of the Beechy Line Rail trail from Colac to Beech Forest, this new 45.2km bike walk trail follows one of the state's former narrow guage railway lines through an area of scenic forest, rich farm land and rolling hills. Pick up your Beechy Line brochure at the Colac Visitor Information Centre for more information.



25. Colac Library – part of the Corangamite Regional Library - built in 1967.

26. Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre – COPACC - built in 2000 with funding assistance of \$2 million from the State Government. The complex houses a 350 seat theatre, Colac Cinemas, Colac Family History Group, The Historical Society, Meeting Rooms and the Civic Hall. Council meetings are held here.

27. 2-6 Rae Street, Colac Otway Shire Offices – built in 1960, but since renovated.

28. Colac District Hospital – now operating as Colac Area Health. Land was reserved in 1873 for the hospital but the building wasn't completed until 1879. The hospital officially opened in 1882. Treatment was free for some years. In 1934 this became the first Australian Community Hospital. In the 1960's need for care of the elderly became apparent and so began the construction of Otway Pioneer Ward which opened in 1966. The hospital is currently undergoing major renovations. *cont. over page*