

# Cultural and Civic Trail

## WANNEROO TOWN CENTRE



<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Explore our Cultural Heritage .....	1
Town Site Original Boundary (North) .....	2
Schooling in Wanneroo .....	3
Centenary Hall and Dennis Garage .....	4
Wanneroo Road Board 1960 .....	5
15 Mile Well .....	5
Town Site Original Boundary (South) .....	6
Wanneroo Showground .....	6
Wanneroo Sports and Social Club (Inc.) .....	7
Cultural and Civic Trail Map .....	8-9
Original Road Board and Shire Hall .....	10
Mains Water Supply .....	11
Mains Electricity Supply .....	12
Early Wanneroo Shops .....	13
Plane Spotting Station .....	14
Old Post Office and Telephone Exchange .....	15
Timber Forestry .....	16
St Anthony's Church .....	17

## **Design Acknowledgements**

Trail Markers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 13	Judith Forrest
Trail Markers 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 16	Bryce Kershaw
Trail Marker 7	Don Walters



Wanneroo Regional Museum and Community History Centre, Wanneroo.

## Explore our Cultural Heritage

Wanneroo has a remarkable history, one that is unique from other Western Australian settlements. Built on agriculture and the market garden industry, Wanneroo has grown from a quiet, rural settlement, to the fastest growing local government area in Western Australia.

Each year the City welcomes thousands of new residents into the City of Wanneroo. As our City develops, why not take a trip down memory lane, and remember our cultural roots.

Discover Wanneroo's rich and hidden heritage on the Cultural and Civic Trail. This journey through the history of the Wanneroo Town Centre consists of 16 markers. Each marker highlights a place or event of historical importance within Wanneroo's original town boundaries.

This Trail allows you to learn about the important link between local civic heritage, particularly since many of the buildings no longer exist.

Along the way you will also discover an array of public artworks which were inspired by the cultural heritage of the district.

The trail booklet and map is available from the Wanneroo Regional Museum.

## TRAIL MARKER 1

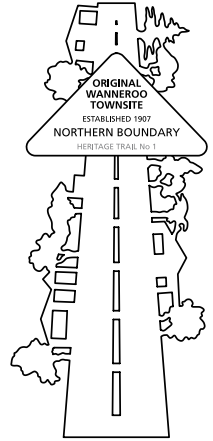
### Town Site Original Boundary North

Location - 981 Wanneroo Road (corner of Church Street)

This point represents the original northern boundary of the Wanneroo townsite established in 1907 at the 16-mile peg of Wanneroo Road.

Until the late 1970s, addresses along Wanneroo Road were given using the closest mile peg to the location. So a property's address would be given, for example, as the '13-mile' or '19-mile'.

Original townsite boundary sign. Forestry houses such as this one on Church Street were home to a number of forestry workers and their families. Once the pine plantations were established the houses were moved to another location.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY MARGARET COCKMAN.



Now walk south on this side of Wanneroo Road.

1907



Wanneroo State School, 1933. PD01750, Picture Wanneroo Collection.  
 COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.



**TRAIL MARKER 2**

**Schooling in Wanneroo**

**Location - Wanneroo Road** (western side, opposite Dundobar Road)

The first Wanneroo school opened in what is now the suburb of Greenwood in 1874, and closed within a few years due to insufficient student numbers.

In 1878, the Wanneroo Settlers’ Association requested a new school but it took the donation of five acres of land by John Buckingham, as well as £5 towards building costs, for the construction of a school to proceed. The Wanneroo School on the corner of Dundobar Road was opened on 30 January 1899 with Charles Shaw as teacher and 14 students enrolled.

An extra room was added to the school in 1924, and in 1928 the one-room East Wanneroo School building (opened in 1904 as Lake Jandabup School), was relocated to the Wanneroo School.

In 1959 the Wanneroo School closed and was later removed due to the widening of Wanneroo Road. The old schoolhouse is now in Neville Park next to Buckingham House, where it has returned to its original function as an educational facility.

## TRAIL MARKER 3

### Centenary Hall and Dennis Garage

Location - Peak Garage, 951 Wanneroo Road  
(western side, marker set into footpath)



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY BATTYE LIBRARY.

The Dennis family's connection with Wanneroo began in the 1870s and in 1929 they built the Wanneroo Centenary Hall in recognition of Western Australia's first century of European settlement.

They set up a picture show business in the hall, which was bought in 1931 by Antonio Crisafulli with the adjoining Dennis garage.

From 1947, after army service, Antonio's son Ned re-opened the garage in partnership with Tony Parin, another Wanneroo war veteran.

Ned Crisafulli operated the garage and the hall, running weekly dances and Saturday night films up until 1966.

The Centenary Hall was demolished in 1969 when the corner garage was sold.



## TRAIL MARKER 4

### Wanneroo Road Board 1960

**Location - Enterprise House, 935 Wanneroo Road**  
(western side, marker set into footpath)



The 1960 Wanneroo Road Board Building, now called Enterprise House, was the second Road Board Office but the first to be used for Wanneroo's administration as a Shire. The building that we see today is the original one, although there have been some internal changes.

Premier David Brand opened the Wanneroo Road, Health and Vermin Board's new office in July 1960. This was the first purpose built office for the Board and was designed by Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown. In 1961 the Road Board became the Shire of Wanneroo.



Wanneroo Road Board Office, 1960.  
PD00101, Picture Wanneroo Collection.  
COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.

## TRAIL MARKER 5

### 15 Mile Well

**Location - Wanneroo Road - in Wanneroo Showground** (western side of Wanneroo Road between Noonan Drive and Ariti Avenue, marker set into footpath)

From its beginnings, Wanneroo Road has been the major north-south transport route through this region, providing access to Perth for farmers, market gardeners and others living in the Wanneroo area and further north.

The Road Board had to maintain wells at locations along Wanneroo Road and provide a rope and bucket for water. This allowed travellers and their animals access to fresh water.

There are no remnants of the well today.

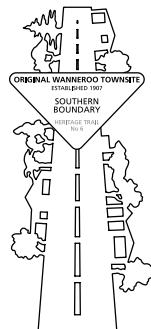


## TRAIL MARKER 6

### Town Site Original Boundary South

**Location - Wanneroo Showground** (western side of Wanneroo Road between Noonan Drive and Ariti Avenue, next to footpath)

This point represents the original southern boundary of the Wanneroo townsite established in 1907. The boundary was at the corner of Lake Road but the road alignment has since been modified.



## TRAIL MARKER 7

### Wanneroo Showground

**Location - Corner of Wanneroo Road and Ariti Avenue**



Crowds around the arena, Wanneroo Show, 1931.  
PCOLL22, Picture Wanneroo Collection.  
COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.

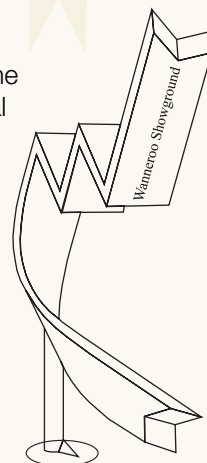


The Wanneroo Showground was developed over several years at the 15-mile peg on Wanneroo Road, and the first Wanneroo Agricultural Society Show was held on Wednesday 21 April 1909.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the Wanneroo Agricultural Show became very popular attracting locals and visitors alike.

The Wanneroo Road Board took over the upkeep of the showground from the Wanneroo Agricultural Society in 1948.

The Wanneroo Show continues to be an annual event and is still run by the Wanneroo Agricultural Society.



**Now walk west on Ariti Avenue, turn right into Frederick Street and right again into Crisafulli Avenue.**



## TRAIL MARKER 8

### Wanneroo Sports and Social Club (Inc.)

**Location - Crisafulli Avenue** (southern side, marker set into footpath)

The Wanneroo Sports and Social Club (formerly the Wanneroo Country Club) came into being in 1962.

A group of residents keen to build a licensed club approached the licensing authorities and 20 members of the group each donated £2 towards the cost of the licences.

In February 1963 the Shire Council granted the club seven acres (2.8 hectares) of land. From 1962 until 1966 various fundraising nights were held, usually in somebody's shed.

On 24 October 1966, the Wanneroo Country Club officially opened with the committee donating 36 gallons of beer for the ceremony.

Sports included darts, pool, snooker, tennis and bowls; as well as a junior football club.



Return to Wanneroo Road and cross to the other side.



Bowlers of the Wanneroo Country Club, 1970. PD01087, Picture Wanneroo Collection. COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.



## TRAIL MARKER 9

### Original Road Board and Shire Hall

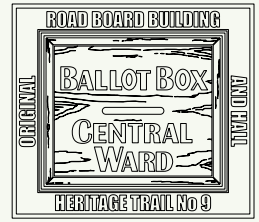
**Location - Wanneroo Road** (eastern side opposite Enterprise House, marker set into footpath)

Formed in 1903, the inaugural Wanneroo Road Board had even members, representing 250 people.

The improvement of roads within Wanneroo and Perth was a major issue, so the Board carried out the expensive 're-blocking' of parts of the Wanneroo Road with jarrah blocks cut and laid as part of the road's foundation.

This was the site of the 1907 Agricultural Hall, which was used for meetings of the Road Board. In 1920, the Board took over the hall from Wanneroo Agricultural Society and later, an extension with façade and offices was built in front of the hall.

The Office and the Shire Works Depot with the war memorial across the road in an earlier location. The Agricultural Hall attached to the rear of the Shire offices was demolished in 1965 and a new Shire Hall was built. This in turn was demolished for the construction of the new Shopping Centre.



Office and the Shire Works Depot, 1962.  
PDO0111, Picture Wanneroo Collection. COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.



#### **Walk up Sinagra Street and cross Memorial Park to the 1971 Shire Office.**

Memorial Park contains the Wanneroo War Memorial. Originally located outside the first Wanneroo Road Board Office, it was moved across Wanneroo Road after the construction of the 1960 Road Board building. It was subsequently moved again to Memorial Park behind the 1971 Shire Office.

The 1971 Shire Office was the second building to house the growing Shire of Wanneroo. The building was used for administration, then became a library and is now a community centre.

## TRAIL MARKER 10



### Mains Water Supply

**Location - Next to pond at rear of 1971 Shire Office**

In 1974 the provision of water supply and sewerage in the Wanneroo Town Centre was taken over by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board. Before this, water had to be sourced from wells and bores on individual properties.

In 1970 when the homes near Buckingham House in Wanneroo were developed, they had to use water from an artesian bore that was first pumped to a 3.5 million litre tank.



Walls of Honour, Bert Togno Park. PD03911, Picture Wanneroo Collection.  
COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.



**Now walk north past the front of Wanneroo Aquamotion on Civic Drive.**

On the wall on the north side of the entry is the *Shelley Taylor-Smith Star*, which celebrates Australian long-distance swimming champion and long-time Kingsley resident, Shelley Taylor-Smith.



**Continue along Civic Drive to Bert Togno Park.**

Here discover the *Walls of Honour*, designed by Judith Forrest. This artwork pays tribute to the early settler, pioneer and indigenous families that have shaped Wanneroo into the community it is today.

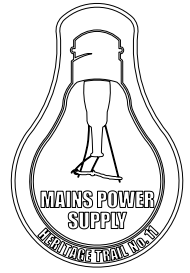


**Now walk west down Dundobar Road to the east end of the Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre.**

## Mains Electricity Supply

### Location - Dundebur Road

(southern side, marker set into paving at base of Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre ramp)



The date, 23 June 1954, was a landmark day for Wanneroo as residents were finally able to celebrate electricity reaching the district after years of lobbying. The extension of mains electricity to the 16-mile peg was celebrated by the Wanneroo Road Board with a buffet tea in the Shire Hall.

However for many residents beyond the townsite, the long wait continued. Even when it did arrive, farmers paid thousands of pounds for the privilege of 'getting the power on'. Residents in new suburbs like Yanchep, Sorrento and Marmion also had to wait until there was enough demand for the electricity supply to be installed to these areas.

Despite Wanneroo's proximity to Perth, the Road Board had to lobby for more than 10 years to get power connected.

In the 1950s power was connected to other rural areas of the South West and the lack of 'connection' prior to 1954 reinforced Wanneroo's perceived isolation.



### Walk west down Dundebur Road.

At the roundabout on the intersection with Rocca Way see the sculpture *Looking West* by Jon Tarry created in 2000. The figure is a sower of seeds and a shallow water fisher and refers to the agricultural beginnings of Wanneroo and the lakes nearby.

Opposite this sculpture, at the entry to the Wanneroo Civic Centre, you can view *Entrance Gates* designed by Tony Jones and Stuart Elliott (2000,) which reflects domestic, industrial, horticultural and workshop themes. Meet *Wanneroo Sam* by Tony Jones (2000), a statue of an early market gardener.

Within the Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre several public art works by Rick Vermey can be viewed.



### Go left at the roundabout.

Continue along Rocca Way and Conlan Avenue to Wanneroo Road. Turn right to head north along Wanneroo Road.

## Early Wanneroo Shops - Togno Delicatessen and Villanova Shopping Centre

### Location - Wanneroo Road

(eastern side near Conlan Avenue intersection, marker set into footpath)

Togno's delicatessen was located on what is now the corner of Dundebur and Wanneroo roads. Villanova's store was opposite the Peak service station.

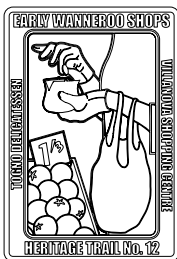
Bert Togno first came to Wanneroo in 1911 from northern Italy where he began dairying. In 1951 he sold his dairy, built a home on the corner of Dundebur and Wanneroo roads and started a small delicatessen. The shop (where the Vibe service station is now), was described as being a corner shop with living quarters at the back. They sold everything, even medicines for children.

In 1929 Antonio Villanova and his family moved to Wanneroo from Sicily, where he found work growing vegetables. In 1951 his son Tony built a shop in Wanneroo in partnership with Ben Muni.

At this time, 'Togno's' was the only other shop in the area. 'Villanova's' was initially run by Tony's wife Lorna, while Tony continued working at his sawmill. Instead of expanding his shop, Tony built the Villanova Shopping Centre, which opened in 1969.



Villanova Bros.  
Pty. Ltd. 1960.  
PD02151, Picture  
Wanneroo Collection.  
COURTESY WANNEROO  
REGIONAL MUSEUM.



Marilyn Crisafulli and Carolyn Leach  
at Togno's Delicatessen, 1959.  
PD03240, Picture Wanneroo Collection.  
COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.

## Plane Spotting Station

### Location - Wanneroo Road

(south-eastern corner of Dundebur Road intersection, marker set into footpath)

The aircraft spotting station was located at the corner of Dundebur and Wanneroo roads opposite the post office.

Residents remembered the station as a little wrought iron shed, like a garden shed, that had someone in attendance every day from 1942 until 1945. It was 'manned' by volunteers, mostly local young women who would spot planes flying over the area.

Using the telephone switchboard in the shed, they would ring the Pearce Air Base with information about the plane types and their direction.



During the war, Doris Steele was an aircraft spotter in Wanneroo. Doris recalled:

*"We had to be able to identify every plane that flew over... we held a mock air (raid) warning. When we sounded the air raid siren, all the kids at the Wanneroo School had to race outside their classrooms and jump into trenches."*



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY DORIS STEELE.

## Old Post Office and Telephone Exchange

### Location - Wanneroo Road

(north-eastern corner of Dundebur Road intersection, marker set into footpath)

The building housing the Wanneroo Post Office was constructed in 1903 on the corner of Wanneroo and Dundebur roads and began life as the Wanneroo School teacher's quarters.

Miss Dolly Tapping ran the post office from 1937 until her retirement in 1966, assisted by her sister Molly.

The post office included a telephone exchange and a 'tuck shop' and Dolly operated the exchange, wrote out telegrams and knew everything that was going on in the district. The building was demolished in 1978 to make way for a dual carriageway.



Ada, Molly, and Dolly Tapping, 1959.  
PD00019, Picture Wanneroo Collection.  
COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.



Wanneroo Post Office, 1960. PD00021, Picture Wanneroo Collection. COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.



## Timber Forestry

**Location - 5 Dundobar Road** (northern side, marker set into footpath)  
Department of Environment and Conservation - previously Forestry House, the offices of the former Forestry Department.

The natural bushland and timber country of the Wanneroo area provided a ready product for the development of a timber industry. The Dennis family set up one of the first saw mills in Wanneroo near Lake Mariginiup in 1921.

The family also produced the first power saw in Western Australia, using a car engine for the motor.



Messrs Villanova, Sinagra and Serasugana pictured with a mobile Dennis saw as they cut timber in Wanneroo. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY SINAGRA FAMILY.



## St Anthony's Church

### Location - Wanneroo Road

(eastern side opposite Church Street, marker set into footpath)

Although Catholic services had been held in the district since 1887, no permanent church building had been erected until the construction of St Anthony's Church.

Local non-Catholic landowner, John Brown, concerned for resident Italian and Slav migrants, donated two acres of land to the Catholic authorities for the purpose of building the church. Funds were raised and Edgar Le Blond Henderson was appointed as architect.

The name for the new church was suggested by parishioner, Antonio Crisafulli, one of the first Southern European migrants to settle in the area. He was from Sicily where Saint Anthony was a popular saint.

Construction of St Anthony's commenced in 1931, and Archbishop Clune officially opened the church on 17 July 1932 (below).

In May 2001 when the new St Anthony's Church on Dundobar Road was opened, it included pews from the old church. The old church was eventually demolished in 2009.



Opening Day, St. Anthony's Church, 1932.

PD02486, Picture Wanneroo Collection. COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.



Wanneroo Road, 1965. PD01829, Picture Wanneroo Collection.  
COURTESY WANNEROO REGIONAL MUSEUM.

### Further information

If you would like to learn more, visit the Wanneroo Regional Museum and Community History Centre at 3 Rocca Way, Wanneroo.

For further reference, the following books are available from any of the City of Wanneroo Libraries and the Community History Centre (located within Wanneroo Regional Museum):

- Chambers, A. (1991).

*The Pioneers: a story of Wanneroo.* Perth: City of Wanneroo.

- Marwick, B. (2002).

*Stories of Old Wanneroo as told to Bill Marwick.*  
Perth: Wanneroo and Districts Historical Society Inc.

- Marwick, B. (2005).

*The Times of Wanneroo as told to Bill Marwick.*  
Perth: Wanneroo and Districts Historical Society Inc.



### City of Wanneroo

23 Dundobar Road, Wanneroo, WA 6065  
Locked Bag 1, Wanneroo, WA 6946

T (08) 9405 5000 After Hours 1300 13 83 93

E [enquiries@wanneroo.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@wanneroo.wa.gov.au)

[wanneroo.wa.gov.au](http://wanneroo.wa.gov.au)