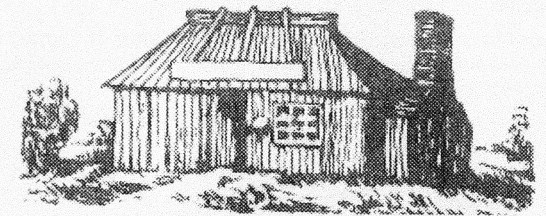
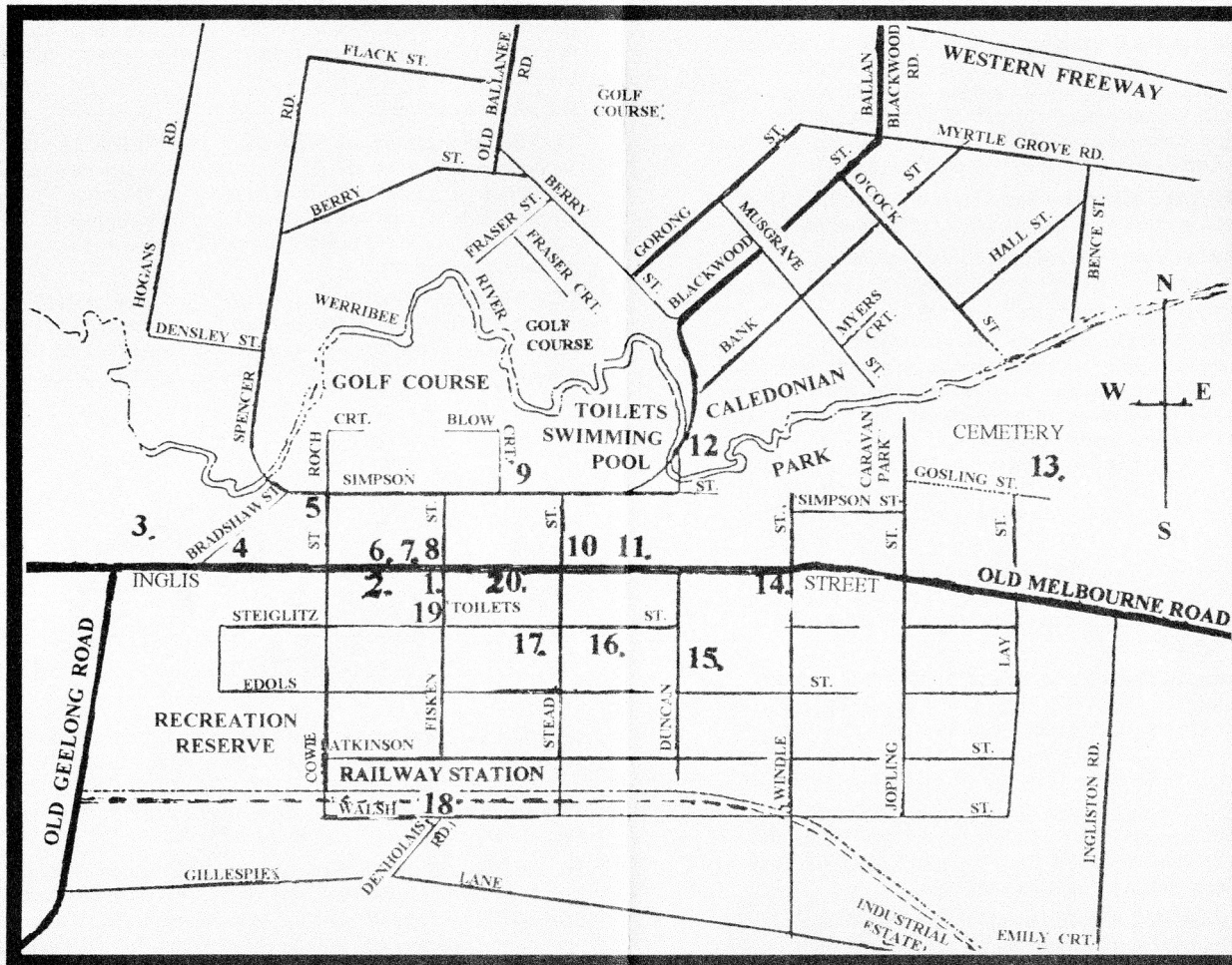


BALLAN SHIRE



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INC.**



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|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The Bank Corner | 7. Post & Telegraph | 14. St. Paul's Church |
| 2. Mechanics' Institute | 8. Ballan Hotel | 15. Ballan State School |
| 3. Westcott | 9. St. John's Church | 16. Court House |
| 4. Old Police Station | 10. St. Brigid's Church & School | 17. Shire Council Offices |
| 5. Ballan & District Soldiers' Memorial Bush Nursing Hospital | 11. Masonic Lodge | 18. Railway Station |
| 6. R.S.L. | 12. Caledonian Park | 19. Fire Station |
| | 13. New Ballan Cemetery | 20. Post Office |

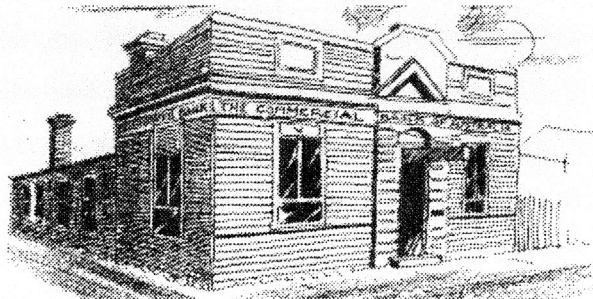
Walker & Printers, Ballarat
Chester

A HERITAGE WALK THROUGH BALLAN

Please respect the privacy of property owners at all times.

Commence heritage walk on the corner of Inglis and Fiskien streets at A. A. McLean Reserve. This reserve was named after Mr. A. A. McLean, a former Secretary and Engineer of the Ballan Shire, who retired in 1975 after 45 years service.

Cross Fiskien Street heading west along Inglis Street. The corner site was occupied by the Westpac Bank, formerly the Commercial Bank of Australia.



1. The Bank Corner. The first Commercial Bank of Australia was established in Ballan in 1867, in the two storey bluestone building further west along Inglis Street. In 1873 the Bank moved to a weatherboard building on this corner. The weatherboard building was demolished during the 1980s. A new building was erected and occupied by the Westpac Bank until the bank closed on 21st June 1996.

2. The Mechanics' Institute and Free Library was the centre of entertainment for Ballan. It was opened on the 31st August 1887. This building has been altered and extended over the years. It has seen many activities such as dances, balls, a boxing ring, picture theatre, ice-skating rink, and flower shows. The two front rooms were originally used as a library and R.S.L. meeting room.

3. "Westcott" was built in the 1860s as a townhouse for the Dugald McPherson family of "Bungeelap". It was built by David Pierpoint, a stonemason and bricklayer from Geelong. It was the home of Richard O'Cock until his death in 1883. Used as a hospital from June 1914 until 1939, then divided into flats, now a private residence and nursery.

Ballan Rest Area was established in 1985 to commemorate Victoria's 150th anniversary of settlement.

4. The former POLICE STATION and RESIDENCE, built in 1861. The bluestone lock-up, which can be seen on the right, was built in 1857. The stables, with the original loft and bluestone floor, have been converted to a garage for the present station.

The site occupied by the **Ballan Hostel** was, in 1881, a cordial factory, and the residence of the Gunsser family. The factory was later used as a shearing depot. The house on the north-west corner of Inglis and Cowie streets was built by Jules Gascard in the 1890s. In 1928 it became Miss McCoppin's Guest House, later a doctor's surgery and residence, and is now a private residence.

5. North along Cowie Street is **Ballan and District Soldiers' Memorial Bush Nursing Hospital**, opened in 1966, with a new

wing being added in 1978. Opposite the hospital was the site of the "Little Blue Store", as depicted on the Historical Society logo.

Return to Inglis Street. Proceed east, passing the original "**Ballan Times**" office, built in the 1890s.

6. The present **R.S.L. building** has had a very chequered history. It was once known as the Kookaburra Cafe and billiard saloon. In 1946 the United Felt Hat Company established a factory employing local staff. On closure of the factory, the R.S.L. purchased the building. It is now used as the R.S.L. and Lions' Club meeting rooms, a surveyor's office and as a venue for indoor bowls.

7. The Post and Telegraph building was built in 1874, by George Flack. It also served as a residence for the postmistress.

8. The Ballan Hotel was built in 1856 by George Flack. The licence was held by his family for many years. The stables were used by Cobb & Co. coaches as a changing station.

9. St. John's Church, Simpson Street. The first church, later to become the church hall, was a brick building erected in 1854. It was also used as the first day school in Ballan, and the Church provided and financed a school teacher. The foundation stone of the present St. John's Church was laid by Mrs. C. H. Lyon of "Ballanee" in 1861. The church was opened and dedicated on 30th March 1862. Ballan had the distinction of being the first Anglican parish outside Melbourne to have a resident vicar, the Reverend William Hall being appointed in 1849.

Simpson Street was originally the main thoroughfare into Ballan. It was used by all traffic, including Cobb & Co. coaches. The troops on their way to Eureka in 1854 camped overnight in Ballan at the Werribee Hunt Inn.

10. St. Brigid's Church and School, No. 185. The original church, called St. Agnes, was erected in 1858, and served as a school until August 1963, when it was destroyed by fire. The present St. Brigid's Church was blessed and opened on 2nd June 1912 by Archbishop Carr. The new school was opened 8th March 1964.

Proceed east along Inglis Street. Next to St. Brigid's Church is "Millfield", built in 1857. It was the residence of W. E. White, who owned the Werribee Chaff Mill. The remains of the mill can be seen at the barbecue area near the swimming pool.

11. The Masonic Lodge first met in the Church of England Hall and in 1927 moved to the present building, which was built in 1863 as a hay and grain store for the produce business conducted by W. E. White.

Turn left at Duncan Street. Follow the path down to Caledonian Park.

12. In 1904, trustees were gazetted for the **Caledonian Park**. This is a twelve acre reserve on the banks of the Werribee River. The area had originally been reserved for the Caledonian Society.

Follow walking track to **New Ballan Cemetery**.

13. The site for the cemetery was gazetted in April 1875. The first interment took place on 12th August 1875, when Norman Parkes Thom was buried. The lawn section opened in the 1970s, and the niche wall was erected in 1995.

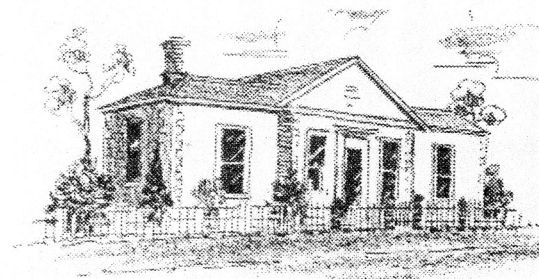
Return to Inglis Street via Lay Street.

14. St. Paul's Church. The foundation stone was laid on the 15th February 1865 by Mrs. Dugald McPherson, and opened as St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on the 22nd July 1866. Three windows on the north side of the church were donated by wives of three pioneer graziers of the district, Mrs. Dugald McPherson, Mrs. John Edols and Mrs. Peter Inglis. The church has been known as St. Paul's Uniting Church since June 1977.

Left into Duncan Street.

15. Ballan State School No. 1435. In 1874 the Ballan Common School became the Ballan State School, and the teacher and pupils transferred to a new building in Duncan Street. The school, built by Thomas Watts, was opened in August 1874. The building was extended and renovated in 1988, and a bell tower was built to house the original school bell.

16. The Court House was built in 1873 by Thomas Watts. It is made from local bricks which are cement rendered, and has a slate roof. It closed in January 1983. The last court sitting was on 17th December 1982. It has been the Local History Records Centre since 1987.



17. The Ballan Shire Council Offices, Steiglitz Street, were built in 1893 on the site of the first Shire Offices, erected in 1871. To the east are the offices opened on 23rd May 1991 for the Shire of Ballan. They are now occupied by Moorabool Shire Council through the amalgamation of Shires on 6th May 1994.

18. Ballan Railway Station. The station opened on December 21st, 1896, with the extension of the Ballarat line from Gordons to Ballan. The direct line between Ballan and Bacchus Marsh was opened on December 4th, 1889. The station building and a terracotta cool store were constructed in the same year. One of the two original water towers remains as evidence of the steam era, when locomotives were watered at Ballan, after the long climb up Ingliston Bank.

19. Ballan Fire Station was opened on the 19th March 1909. The fire bell, weighing 2½ hundredweight, was placed in position on 20th July, 1910. It was funded by public subscription. The Ballan Volunteer Fire Brigade, formed in 1890, became a member of the Bush Fire Brigade Association in 1913. In 1945 the brigade came under the control of the Country Fire Authority.

20. The Ballan Post Office building opened for business in April 1911. It transferred from the old Post and Telegraph Office, established in 1874.