

KALAMUNDA TOWN CENTRE HERITAGE WALK TRAILS





c1902

Overview

The trails highlight the buildings and sites of Kalamunda centre, giving an insight into the history of this community.

The Railway Heritage Trail provides a third local walk to experience bushland along the former railway reserve. A separate brochure can be obtained from the Visitor Centre at the Zig Zag Cultural Centre.

The walk times are estimated at a leisurely pace.

Town Walk **Central.**
20 minutes

Extension **Canning Road Extension.**
15 minutes

Railway Heritage Trail
2km North and
4 km South of townsite

The trails commence at the Zig Zag Cultural Centre, 50 Railway Road in Kalamunda.



Townsite History

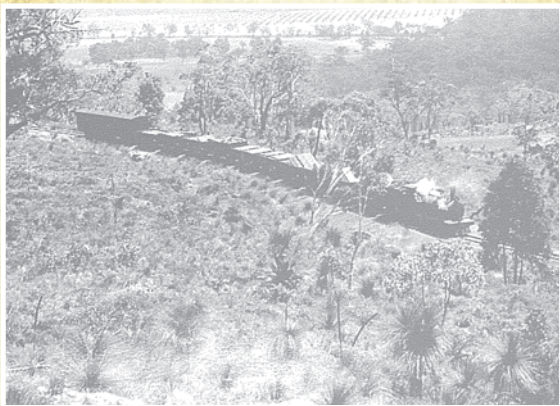
Prior to European settlement the Beeloo people occupied much of the land east of the Canning River in the Shire. The hills of the eastern Darling Range were opened up for timber logging from the early 1860s influencing the later development of the area to be known as Kalamunda. In 1881 Frederick and Elizabeth Stirk cleared the first land for agricultural purposes, in what is now the township of Kalamunda. The indigenous Beloo people roamed through this region. The Towns name is derived from the Aboriginal words “Cala” (home/hearth) and “Munnda” (forest) – meaning “a home in the forest” The official townsite name was approved in 1901.

Charles Brooks opened the first shop in a barn behind Stirk Cottage which he leased in 1896. Prior to that, early settlers travelled by foot or horse to Guildford on the Swan River for essential supplies. This was a distance of 13 kilometres along a rough bush track.

The Upper Darling Range Railway was privately built in 1891 to serve the Canning Jarrah Timber Company transporting timber to Fremantle via Midland Junction. It was known as the Zig Zag Line. The train ascended the steep Gooseberry Hill gradient with the locomotive pushing and pulling coaches and wagons into and out of sidings.



c1918 - 1920



c1891

Government ownership of the railway in 1903 ensured regular transport of passengers, fruit to market, goods and mail. The Kalamunda station was first known as Stirk's Landing. The train service also brought many visitors for day trips and longer stays for the healthy, scenic environment, wildflowers and leisure activities.

The local guest house industry flourished over the 1920's, 30's and 40's. The guest houses, a second hotel and several tearooms catered for the visitors.

In the first decade of 1900, development of the town took place near the railway line with the first hotel and two shops being built on Railway Road. In 1904 a track was cleared down a slope to Stirk's orchard, later to become Kalamunda's main shopping street, called Haynes Street. The rich soils of the hills supported fruit growing and was the second main industry after timber cutting.

Electricity arrived in Kalamunda in 1921. The hard surfacing of roads commenced in 1929 and the reticulated scheme water was connected in 1954.



G Class Locomotive 1898 in Kalamunda History Village
c2019



c2011

Town Walk

1 - 20

1. ZIG ZAG CULTURAL CENTRE (2011)

This multi- purpose facility includes the Perth Hills Visitor Centre, Zig Zag Gallery, a Cafe and Seminar Rooms. It is located in the cultural precinct between Kalamunda's library and the History Village. Distinctive public art works of recycled glass, jarrah and granite are located in the forecourt. Regular exhibitions are held.

Website: www.zzcc.com.au

2. KALAMUNDA HISTORY VILLAGE (1970)

The local history museum occupies the site of the former Upper Darling Range Railway station yard. It is the home of the Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society which developed and manages the museum in a village setting of heritage buildings, which houses displays of early settlement life, industries and transport.

Metal art works on external walls to the north.

Website: www.kalamundahistoricalsociety.com



3. ART & CRAFT WAGON (1983)

c1930s

This wagon is a Brake Van ZJ427 used on the passenger service to Kalgoorlie, Albany and Bunbury from July 1919 until 1942. During the war years 1942 and 1945 it formed part of an ambulance train. In 1983 after restoration, it became the display wagon for the Kalamunda & Districts Arts and Craft Group.

4. KALAMUNDA LIBRARY (1963)

In 1963 the current library was built with major extensions added in 1987. The library replaced a small wooden railway hut housing various businesses including one known as the “Fruit Bowl”. Along the south wall of the library is the magnificent stained glass window depicting the hills landscape which was the work of stained glass artists and volunteers. The coloured scenery is most effectively viewed at night. The cement sculpture on this site by Vic Markovic Senior in 1970 represents shelter.



c1950



5. STONE SEAT AND PINE TREES

c1930s

This seat was erected by the Progress Association in recognition of Samuel Burkhardt and Archibald Sanderson who planted the pine trees in 1913.

Pine trees were a landscape feature of the townsite in Railway and Canning Roads. Age and borer infestation have resulted in many being removed.

6. BIBBULMUN TRACK – NORTHERN TERMINUS

The development of this world class walking track started in 1972. It runs from Kalamunda to Albany, a distance of 969.5 km. There are night shelters at various points along the track.

The Bibbulmun people are a clan group of the Nyoongar people who inhabited the South West of Western Australia. The timber sculpture at the terminus represented a family embarking on a journey with ancestral spirits watching over them.



c2011



c1920s

7. MUNDAKAL (1918)

Originally the Kalamunda Methodist Church (later the Uniting Church) built by local stonemason August Johnson in 1918. It has a timber ceiling of local jarrah and walls of laterite stone. After being deconsecrated it was used as a venue for civil wedding ceremonies and is now a private residence.

8. RED MAIL BOX

Site of the second local post office (1921-1972) now located in the Kalamunda History Village. Prior to 1904 mail came by cart twice a week from Guildford. It was later delivered by train and left in bags at railway sidings. First home deliveries of mail in Kalamunda began in 1946 and were delivered by bicycle.



c1920s



c1930s

9. KALAMUNDA HOTEL (1902 and 1927)

The substantial two storey hotel was built for Mr. Charles Hummerston at a cost of 2,000 pounds. The bricks were made from clay dug from the Stirk property (now Stirk Park) and was the second brick building in Kalamunda. The hotel was then purchased by Paddy Connolly, who in 1927 built a second larger hotel alongside to cater for the growing number of visitors to the town. Paddy owned the horse, “Blue Spec” a fine galloper which won the Melbourne Cup in 1905. Log chop competitions were held on the wide gravel road outside the hotel.

10. EARLY BANK BUILDING (1921)

Bottle Shop

The English, Scottish & Australia Bank moved into the 1921 extension on the northern end of the first hotel until it built a new bank in Haynes Street in 1958. Prior to that banking required a trip to Perth. The extension was later used by various local groups including the RSL Ladies Auxiliary.



c1928



11. KALAMBRA OUTDOOR PICTURE GARDENS

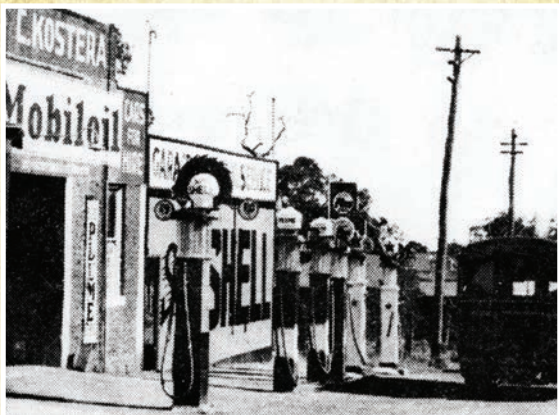
Next to the first hotel is the site of an open air cinema which operated in the 1920s. It had canvas deck chairs and music provided by a pianist for silent black and white films. The roadside entry was walled to prevent non-payers viewing the film.

12. CURRY'S CASH STORE (1909)

Dreams

This is the oldest remaining shop in the town. It was originally Curry's Cash Store which provided a number of services including shaves and haircuts for men, plus boot and saddlery repairs. In 1913 it was converted into tearooms by the Synott family who served teas, continental style, on the trellis-enclosed wide verandah. In 1934 it was a newsagency called "Cressie's Corner."





13. KOSTERA'S GARAGE

c1950s

TAB

Charles Ellis started a motor garage and taxi business here in 1924. This was taken over by Messrs. Binns & Webster who started Kalamunda's first bus service. It was sold to Mr. Charlie (Boss) Kostera who by 1958 had built up the bus fleet to 22 buses. The Kostera family still operates a tyre fitting business in Kalamunda.



c1930s



c1926

14. NESTOR'S BUTCHER SHOP AND TEAROOMS

The Vault Restaurant

On this corner stood Robert Nestor's Butcher Shop. Meat was delivered by horse and cart as far out as Barton's Mill – a day's return journey. The shop was converted to Braeside Tearooms run by Mrs Nestor and her daughters when the butcher shop transferred to a new section built next door c1934. Roof top tea gardens were accessed by a spiral staircase.

15. ST. BARNABAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH (1928)

Kalamunda Amateur Dramatic Society (KADS) Theatre

The building of this church was funded by one large donation, and furnished inside by funds raised by the parishioners. The last service was held there in 1963 when it was replaced by a new church in Railway Road. The building was then used as the Ambulance Hall and is currently the home of KADS.



c1928



c1952

16. TOWN SQUARE (1992)

The **timber horse and whim sculpture** was carved by Nicholas Compton in 1993 from a single log of wandoo, a local native tree. It reflects the importance of the early timber industry. The **pioneer women's sculpture** was commissioned for the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in 1999. It recognises the important role women played in Western Australian history and shows the pioneer women at the base as "pillars of society". The **rotunda** was a community project funded by the Lions Club of Kalamunda.

The **Town Square Hall**, was Kalamunda's first kindergarten built in 1951 from funds raised by the community. Today it is a well used community centre.

A large **Artisans Market** is held on the first Saturday of each month and a **Farmers' Market** operates here every Sunday morning.



c1940s

17. PORTWINE'S DARLING RANGE BAKERY

Auto One

This bakery with its wood fired ovens baked bread and buns which were delivered daily by horse and cart around the townsite and three times weekly to outlying districts. Horses were kept in a paddock behind the shop. There was a well and windmill pump to supply water and a large pile of wood for the wood fired ovens.

18. HAYNES STREET

Haynes Street is named after Colonel Haynes who was an early land owner. It became Kalamunda's main street with development starting at the railway end. Early businesses included a general store, a blacksmith, a boarding house, a barber, a butcher's shop and tearooms. Clay based tennis courts with a roller skating rink were located on the lower end of the road. Tennis provided recreation for residents and visitors to Kalamunda as it grew into an increasingly popular holiday place up to the 1950s.



c1930s



c1940s

19. KAY'S KASH & KARRY

Liquorland

Kay's Kash & Karry was a grocery store. The building was originally a drapery store in Wiluna and dismantled and transported by rail to Kalamunda. It was re-erected as the grocery store with a fifty foot hall at the rear which was hired out to the public.

20. CHEMIST SHOP

Kalamunda's first chemist shop was opened in 1933 by pharmacist, Miss Lola Witham in a small rented shop at the top end of the Central Road Mall. She later married and with her husband Jack Giles built this new shop in Haynes Street which also included a drapery.



c1940s



c1932

21. KALAMUNDA STORES

Thai on the Hill

This corner building was constructed by S. Hummerson and Jim Watson, two returned soldiers from the Great War. The site was originally a beautiful garden owned by Samuel Burkhardt. The shop was built as a general store but has housed many businesses including a newsagency, a drapery, a dressmaker, an electrical and furniture retailers, a hardware store and a restaurant. Around the corner from the garden was Burkhardt's house, known as the Brown House for its distinctive colour. In 1922 the house became the town's first hospital, then a boarding house and again a residence, before it was demolished in the 1950s for new shops.



c1940s



c1904

Extension Walk 22 - 30

22. DARLING RANGE ROADS BOARD OFFICES: (1904)

Dome Café

The Darling Range Roads Board met in the Agricultural Hall from 1898 until 1904 when a small weatherboard one-room office was built. This served until 1934 when it was replaced by a brick building. In 1961 the Roads Board became the Shire of Kalamunda and in 1964 the office was extended. The Shire administration moved to Railway Road in 1978. This building had been used as a Police Station and Road Traffic Authority until its conversion to a café in 2012.



c1930s



c1903

23. KALAMUNDA AGRICULTURAL HALL

Lesser Hall (1898)

This was the first brick building in the district and was built by the Darling Range Vine & Fruit Growers Association. It was an outstanding size for such a small community and was intended to provide a central meeting place for pioneers scattered throughout the district.

Main Hall (1923)

In 1922 the Darling Range Roads Board bought the hall but it was clear then that a larger hall was needed. So the Main Hall was added behind the Lesser Hall. Further extensions were carried out in the 1960's and 1970's.

Since 1898, the Kalamunda Agricultural Hall has been a venue for many events, including weddings, balls, music and performance productions, dances, school concerts and the Kalamunda Agricultural Show.



c1940s



c2007

Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre (1996)

The Performing Arts Centre was constructed alongside the Main and Lesser Halls, in keeping with the style of the original construction. It is a 257 seat theatre with large foyer, servery, and teaching facilities. It is a shared facility with the Kalamunda Senior High School.

War Memorial

This significant site was constructed in 1939 and is still used for ANZAC day memorial services.



c1940s



24. CRABB'S GROCERY STORE (1934)

c1940s

Kalamunda IGA

The Crabb family has operated a store in Kalamunda since Show Day 1934 when James Crabb opened his first shop on the site of the current store's car park. It was the first shop in Kalamunda to have commercial refrigeration which enabled the sale of home-made ice cream. A service also offered was home delivery of groceries. A larger store was opened on the opposite side of Heath Road in 1955. Refurbishment was carried out in 1998 when bull-nose verandahs were added.

25. BROOKS' STORE (1905)

Chelsea Décor

This is the site of a store and house built by Charles H Brooks and his wife after operating the area's first store from the Stirk Cottage barn. The business was taken over by R. Jenner and called The Cash and Carry Store. The building was demolished in the 1970s to build the current group of shops.



c1905



26. CANNING ROAD GUEST HOUSES

c1920s

Kalamunda as a popular holiday destination had many Guest Houses. Some well known Canning Road houses included 'Hollywood', the 'Summit' and 'Arcadia'. Guest houses were often operated by women who would meet their guests at the train station, sometimes with a horse and buggy. Guests could entertain themselves by bush walking playing tennis, attending music soirees and outdoor pictures, or visiting the tearooms or hotel. Artists were also attracted to the area for the bush landscapes and wildflowers.

27. GUMNUT FOUNTAIN (2003)

Charles and Joan Smith, bronze artists were commissioned by the Shire of Kalamunda to create a fountain incorporating gumnuts which are in the Shire logo. The artists also have sculptures in St. George's Terrace Perth and in the Burswood Gardens. This fountain was the first of three in the Shire. The others are in Forrestfield and High Wycombe.



c2013



c1890

28. STIRK COTTAGE (1881)

First house in Kalamunda

Frederick and Elizabeth Stirk, from Yorkshire England, built this cottage with materials collected from the land. Tree saplings, mud and clay were used for the walls and roof shingles were made from sheoak trees. The family were the first settlers in the Kalamunda townsite. By 1890 there were nine in the family so the Stirks built a larger house nearby. The original cottage was leased to Charles Brooks who operated Kalamunda's first local store from the barn. By the 1960s the cottage had badly deteriorated. It was saved from demolition by local community action in 1969 and then restored as a museum building in 1970. The Kalamunda & Districts Historical Society was formed as a result of saving Stirk Cottage and continues to preserve and promote local history.



c2014

29. STIRK PARK (1962)

The Stirk family cleared forest and bush to provide farmland. Water was plentiful from a nearby soak and stream. A market garden also flourished here between 1903 and 1918. The land was later used as a dairy farm with up to 140 cows grazing on the site.



c1940s

In the early 1950s the Kalamunda Club was formed and leased an old weatherboard house and surrounds for club rooms and bowling greens. In 1962 The Shire of Kalamunda purchased the property for use as a public park. The park has a **memorial avenue** of deciduous trees honouring service personnel from World War Two. The **music shell** was built in the 1980s and is used as an entertainment venue for many months of the year.



30. SCHOOL BLOCK (1895)

c1934

A block bounded by Stirk Street, Elizabeth Street and Headingly Road was the location of Kalamunda's first school and headmaster's residence. The timber school is now in the Kalamunda History Village. The headmaster's house was later bought by Miss Kitty Armstrong who operated tearooms and a guest house called 'Green Gables'. Garden teas were served on unusual table tops with seats shaped as mushrooms and toadstools.

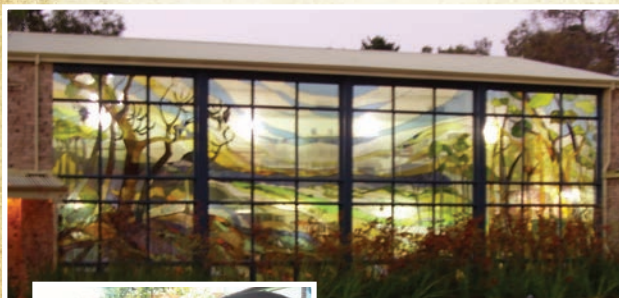
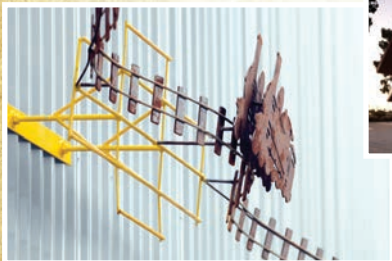
On the other corner of Stirk Street was a well known guest house named 'The Summit', later renamed 'Monterey' after a cruise ship. It became an elegant restaurant in the 1970s until it was removed in 1984 to make way for a fast food business.



c1895

Public Art in the Town Centre

The Shire has a number of public artworks throughout the Town Centre. There are also gardens of roses and flowering plums which signify the early settlement and importance of horticulture and orcharding.



Keep an eye out for these as you enjoy your walk around the town centre!



Acknowledgements

Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society
Perth Hills Visitor Centre Volunteers
Shire of Kalamunda 2015





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