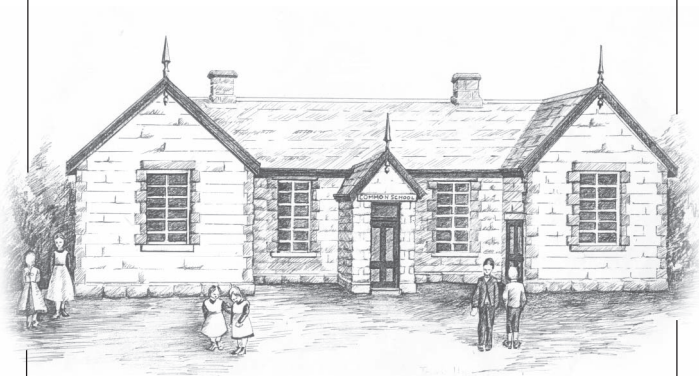


KOROIT



**HERITAGE
TRAIL**



“Tower Hill Common School”

No. 618

~ Opened in 1857 ~

1. The Koroit Heritage Trail commences at the Tower Hill Common School in Victoria Park, High Street.

The former Tower Hill Lake National School was the first public building in Koroit, opened in 1857 and is the last substantially intact authentic example of the National School era.

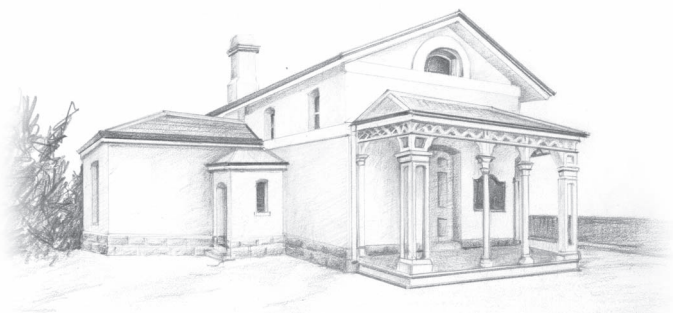
Registered by Heritage Victoria, restored by the Koroit & District Historical Society and used as their headquarters.

Leave Victoria Park, turn right into High Street, then left into Mill Street, past Koroit and District Memorial Health Services, opened in 1955.

Turn left into McVicar Street, noting the view of the Murray Goulburn factory to the left.

Turn left into Mailors Flat/Koroit Road and stop opposite the Murray Goulburn Factory.

2. The Koroit Butter Factory first opened in 1889. Now operating as Murray Goulburn Co-operative Company Ltd., the largest dairy processing plant in Australia.
3. State School No. 618 opened in 1878, residence built c.1890. Sir John Eccles (1903 – 1997), a former student, went on to become a Nobel Prize winner and Australian of the Year (1963).



4. Former Court House opened in 1872 and functional until 1976. Classified by the National Trust.
5. Erected c1885 as police residence, originally had a detached building on the east side as the Police Station. New Police Station building officially opened in July 2007.

6. Original Post Office opened in 1858, current building completed in 1872. Home of author, Henry Handel Richardson from 1878 to 1890. Classified by the National Trust.
7. The Old Courthouse Inn built in 1901 as an hotel, continuing the licence of the Dunfermline Inn built on adjacent site and first licensed in 1857.

TURN RIGHT INTO HIGH STREET

8. Abercorn, built as a residence with adjacent shop front, one of the first general stores in the town, c.1857.

TURN LEFT INTO BOURKE AVENUE

9. Corner Station Street and Bourke Avenue, site of former Station Master's residence.

10. Railway Station operated from 1889 to 1977. Original building was timber, existing brick station building completed in 1907 and currently undergoing restoration

TURN LEFT & MOVE ALONG STATION STREET.

Note the varying architecture and the Norfolk Island Pines, planted in August 1906 and listed on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees.

TURN LEFT INTO COMMERCIAL ROAD

The commercial/administrative precincts are classified by the National Trust.

Note shop fronts, kerblined verandahs and imposing public buildings.

11. Corner Store, built 1883, operated by the Daly family since 1918.
12. Large double fronted shop built c.1906. Operated for many years as Barr's General Store.

13. Former National Australia Bank opened in 1868, as a single-storey building, second storey and façade added in the late 1880s. Ceased trading in 2002. Now a private residence.



14. Former bank building, built in 1876 as Colonial Bank of Australasia. The State Savings Bank of Victoria, (established in 1842 to safeguard the savings of early colonists), opened a Koroit branch in September 1920. Later became the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Ceased trading in 1996. Now a private residence.
15. Koroit Hotel built in 1861 as a simple, double-storied bluestone building. Art Nouveau façade added in the early 1900s.

TURN RIGHT INTO HIGH STREET

16. Site of the former Fire Station, built in 1900, then used as the Guide Hall. Building demolished in September 2006, after an arson attack earlier that year.



17. Former Koroit Borough Chambers, north wing built in 1878, south wing in 1970. Borough of Koroit was constituted in 1870, amalgamated with Shire of Warrnambool in 1985, became part of Moyne Shire in 1994. Now houses the Library.



18. Botanic Gardens designed by William Guilfoyle in 1869, laid out by Robert Whitworth, with trees selected by Baron von Mueller. Contains several trees classified by the National Trust. Added to the Victorian Heritage Register in February 2007.
19. Old Hillcrest, a substantial late Victorian residence built in 1910 by Richard Skilbeck, one of Koroit's earliest pioneers.
20. Early cottage formerly known as 'The Pines', the first home of Richard Skilbeck, built in 1860. Authenticity was eroded by later renovation, although part of the original roof is thought to still exist under the iron then later, tiled roof.
21. Former Methodist Church, original timber building opened in 1859, existing building opened in 1868, closed in 1970s. Now serves as the Scout Hall.

TURN RIGHT INTO GARDEN STREET

22. Scots Presbyterian Church opened in 1861, adjacent Manse built 1863/64.
23. Historic horse trough, one of many placed in country areas by Annis and George Bills in the 19th Century.
24. Early settlers cottage. Probably built in 1889/90.

TURN LEFT INTO ANZAC AVENUE

25. Former Convent of the Good Samaritan Sisters, opened in 1907. Operated as a hostel and school camp from 1973 until 2001. Now privately owned.

- 26.** St. Patrick's School, first established in 1890, oldest existing building dates from 1921.



- 27.** Catholic Church of the Infant Jesus, designed by William Wardell who was also responsible for St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne. Original section opened in 1870, later extensions added in 1915 –16.
- 28.** Catholic Church Presbytery, built in the late 1880s.

Church precincts classified by the National Trust.

TURN LEFT INTO ANNE STREET



- 29.** A gracious example of late Victorian architecture built as late as 1918 by William Crowe, civic leader for over forty years. Note shamrock on stonework above front left window.

TURN LEFT INTO HORNE STREET

- 30.** St. Paul's Anglican Church built in 1870. Note fine view of Catholic Church buildings across playing fields opposite.

- 31.** Weatherboard home, built in 1900, a fine example of Edwardian architecture.

**TURN LEFT INTO HIGH STREET AND RETURN
TO THE NATIONAL SCHOOL**

~ END OF FORMAL TRAIL ~

~ **Historic places within close proximity** ~
Tower Hill, *extinct volcano, first national park
in Victoria.*

Tower Hill Cemetery, *first burial 1856.*

Rosebank Homestead, *built in 1850s, classified
by the National Trust.*

Shamrock House, *formerly Shamrock Hotel, Crossley.*



KOROIT



A Green and Pleasant Land

A township of both historical and architectural significance, Koroit lies midway between Warrnambool and Port Fairy, nestled against the northern slopes of Tower Hill, in south west Victoria. European settlement of the area began in the late 1830s and was boosted by the arrival of large numbers of Irish immigrants who were lured by the availability of land and the rich volcanic soil in which to grow crops such as potatoes, onions and wheat.

In 1985, the National Trust (Victoria) classified both the commercial/administrative and church precincts, declaring them to have 'a special character, identity and significance which are an important part of Australia's heritage', whilst also noting that the Catholic Church buildings are 'larger in scale and more complete in range than those in any other comparably sized Victorian town'.

The overall setting of the township makes an added contribution to this special character and identity. Interspersed between fine examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture and gracious public buildings, tiny worker's cottages may be found and each individual building adds its own charm and value to a district which is quite unique in terms of our national heritage.



*The Koroit and District Historical Society Inc.
acknowledges the financial assistance of Moyne Shire
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Rosemary Gunn for the illustrations depicting
Koroit in days gone by.*

