

The Traditional Owners of the Strathbogie Shire

The stream of overlanders and their flocks, post 1836 exploration, forever altered the ancient cultures of this area, removing traditional owners from their country onto unknown territory.

The Traditional Owners of the Strathbogie Shire are represented by two major groups with deep connections to the land and water.

The Yorta Yorta Nation in the northern plains of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers, and the Taungurung Clans in the southern catchment which include the rivers and mountains of the Strathbogie Ranges.

The Yorta Yorta Nation includes eight clan groups: Moira, Kailtheban, Wollithiga, Nguaria-illiam-wurrung, Ulupna, Kwat Kwat, Bangerang and Yalaba Yalaba. Some Bangerang people and other groups prefer to be recognised as separate cultural groups.

The Taungurung Clans are distinguished by nine clans: Buthera Balug, Look William, Moomoom Gundidj, Nattarak Balug, Nira Balug, Warring-Illum Balug, Yarran-Illiam, Yeeren-Illiam-Balug and Yowung-Illam Balug.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we strive, the peoples of the rivers and the hills of the Strathbogie Shire region who walked these lands for generations. We pay our respects to the elders of the past, and the speakers of the first words, who lived in harmony with this country.

Finding new pastures – Hamilton Hume and William Hovell

The drive from Violet Town to Avenel follows, in reverse, the steps of Hume and Hovell as they returned home to Sydney in December 1824.

Their party consisted of themselves and six other men. With fruitless searches for passes through mountain ranges and struggles to cross deep rivers without boats, they continued on their way south through the Port Phillip District in search of good pasture, eventually arriving at Corio Bay, which, incidentally, they thought was Westernport. This miscalculation delayed Port Phillip District settlement for a decade, as when a party was sent by ship to Westernport to establish a settlement, it was found not only to be unsuitable, but to have been wrongly identified.

Their homeward trek avoided the more mountainous country by staying further west, crossing the Goulburn River at Tallarook, before heading North East close to today's Avenel, Longwood, Euroa and Violet Town. This road eventually became known as the Sydney Road, then the old Hume Highway.

Finding Australia Felix

On October 9, 1836, Major Thomas Mitchell cut a large blaze in a tree and buried instructions under ground marked with a deeply cut cross, on the banks of the Goulburn River not far from the present Mitchellstown cairn.

He and his advance party of 14 men then crossed the river and camped on the other side before hastening on to return to Sydney. This became known for years as The Crossing Place or Old Crossing Place. His instructions were for his second in command, Granville Stapylton,

Discover more of Strathbogie Shire

Visitor Information Centres

Nagambie

293 High St, Nagambie
Open: Monday to Sunday, 10am-4pm
Telephone: (03) 5794 1471

www.gonagambie.com.au

Euroa

50 Binney St, Euroa
Open: Monday to Sunday, 10am-2pm
Telephone: (03) 5795 1199

www.visiteuroa.org.au



Historic Trails and Information

Avenel History, Euroa Heritage Trail, Longwood History, Military History Trail, Ned Kelly Touring Route, Taungurung Land and Waters Council visit www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/tourism/our-history

Food, Wine and Culture

For more information about our incredible tourism-based offerings, from great food and wine to picturesque tracks and trails, visit www.strathbogiestory.com Featuring seven short podcasts for each town in Strathbogie Shire - plus a podcast about Strathbogie Shire's many tracks and trails.

Tracks and Trails

For more information on Strathbogie Shire picturesque tracks and trails, visit: www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do/sport-and-recreation/tracks-and-trails/

Events and Things to do:

For more information on events and things to do in Strathbogie Shire visit: www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/things-to-do

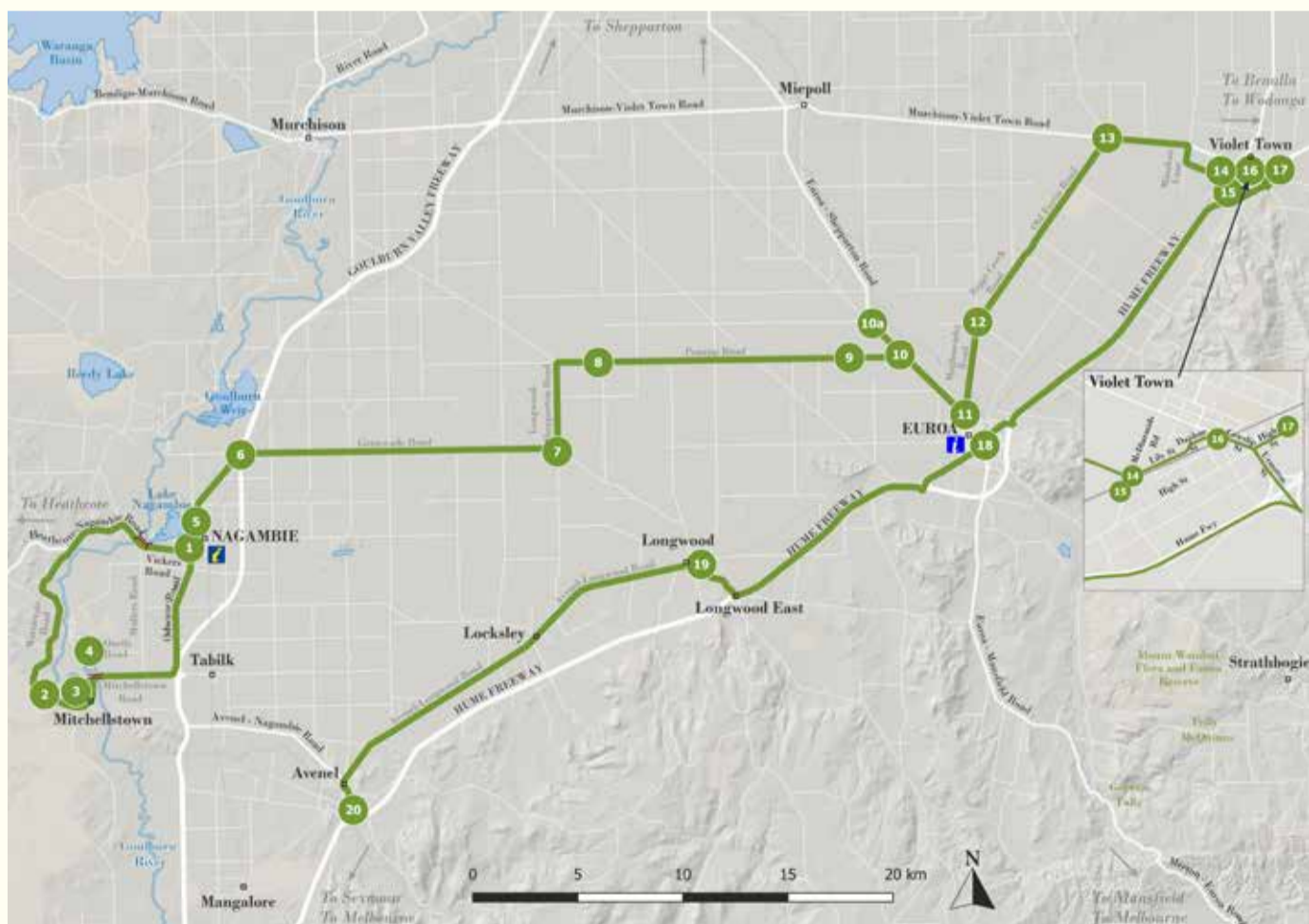


Presented by Nagambie Historical Society Inc

Discover Explorers Way



Explorers Way: Nagambie - Major Creek - Mitchellstown - Violet Town - Euroa - Longwood - Avenel - Nagambie



The two surveyors, a Wiradjuri guide - John Piper, and 23 convicts, had begun the Australia Felix expedition in February 1836, which had crossed the Port Phillip District of New South Wales from the Murray to Portland, with 70 animals pulling laden carts and covered wagons, including a boat wagon with two boats. They were now returning to Sydney. Some of the animals had perished and vehicles were lost in swamps. They returned through the Grampians, past Mount Macedon to cross the present Goulburn River and continue north past the

Nagambie lagoon, bearing north east at Warring, towards present day Euroa and Violet Town. Mitchell surveyed the track which is now encompassed by the Strathbogie Shire. Deep ruts left by the boat carriage could be seen for years and, known as the Major's Line, proved to be the first route south for overlanders.

This section of the drive is part of the Major Mitchell Bicentennial Trail of 1988 which followed their tracks through Victoria as closely as possible using existing roads.

Explorers Way: Nagambie – Major Creek – Mitchellstown – Violet Town – Euroa – Longwood – Avenel – Nagambie

1. Nagambie Township

Start your journey in the picturesque town of Nagambie 90km north of Melbourne, off the Goulburn Valley Freeway.

Stop for a coffee at one of the many cafes and enjoy the view over Lake Nagambie. Wander through the Museum and follow a Heritage Walk through the town, available from the Information Centre. www.gonagambie.com.au

2. Major Mitchell Memorial Cairn

– Mitchellstown Road

Turn off High Street at the petrol station, onto Vickers Road. Travel over Chinaman's Bridge and keep left to take Wattlevale Road. After passing Major Creek Camping Reserve, keep an eye out for the Major Mitchell Cairn marking his camp site in 1836, on the left. www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/sites/major-creek-camping-area



3. Mitchelton Winery – Mitchellstown Road

Continue to follow Wattlevale/Mitchellstown Roads until you reach the impressive entrance to the iconic Mitchelton Winery. At the end of the main drive, as you turn into the winery, is a large rock with a plaque marking the first postal route to the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, c1838, which then became the old Port Phillip Road.

Do not miss this impressive modern winery with the iconic Robin Boyd / Ted Ashton Tower, Indigenous Art Gallery, Cellar Door, the Muse Restaurant and beautiful lawns on the banks of the Goulburn River. www.mitchelton.com.au

4. Tahbilk Winery – 254 O'Neils Road

Turn left out of the gates at Mitchelton Winery and over the bridge. Turn left into Mullers Road then left again into O'Neils Road and follow the signs to



Tahbilk Winery. Another worthwhile stop, take time to visit the historic Cellar Door and wander the wetlands on the Eco Trail. Refreshments available at the Wetlands Café. Leave Tahbilk via the Nagambie exit, just past the Wetlands Café and take the back road into Nagambie through the rolling pastures and impressive thoroughbred studs. www.tahbilk.com.au

5. Major Mitchell Cairn – High Street Nagambie

In the centre of Nagambie on the median strip is a large bluestone cairn commemorating Major Mitchell's passage nearby in 1836.

6. Grimwade Road

Head north out of town and take the overpass onto Grimwade Road heading towards Longwood. Continue on Grimwade Road for around 30km, and then turn left onto the Longwood-Shepparton Road.



7. Longwood Shepparton Road

Travel 4.2km and turn right onto Pranjip Road.

8. / 9. Major Mitchell over night camp site

– Pranjip Road

As you cross the Castle Creek Bridge, pause for a moment and enjoy the serenity of this idyllic spot where the Major Mitchell troop spent the night in 1836.

10. Arcadia Two Chain Road/ Euroa-Shepparton Road

Continue on Pranjip Road. At the T intersection turn left at the VLine bus stop. Rest a while on the rusty chairs provided for waiting passengers.

10a. Historical Marker

A short distance on the right is a historical marker noting Major Mitchell's route. After the visit return back towards Euroa.

11. Moglonemby Road

Turn left into Moglonemby Road

12. Riggs Creek Road

Turn right into Riggs Creek Road

13. Old Euroa Road

Keep right onto Old Euroa Road, then turn right onto Murchison-Violet Town Road. Turn right onto Minahan Lane then left into Alan McDiarmids Road.



14. McDiarmids Road

Just across the railway line on the right is the Southern Aurora Memorial.

15. Southern Aurora Crash Site Memorial

– McDiarmids Road Rail Crossing

Visit the site and wander the boards telling the story of this fatal crash in 1969. Return to McDiarmids Road and travel back over the railway line then right into Lily Street towards Violet Town. Take a right into Daphne Street and then right into Cowslip Street

16. Southern Aurora Memorial Gardens

– Cowslip Street, Violet Town

A lovely spot to stop and visit and reflect on what this town went through in 1969 www.southernauroraviolettown.com.au

While you are in town wander the main street and visit the Art Gallery & Museum and have a coffee in the café. www.violettown.org.au

17. Major Mitchell and Hume & Hovell Cairns

– High Street, Violet Town

Head along Cowslip Street towards the freeway and turn right into High Street. Just outside the entrance to the Honeysuckle Caravan Park is where the explorers intersect on their journeys. Here you will find a cairn to Hume and Hovell and a separate cairn for Major Mitchell. This is as far north as we go. From here, head back to the Hume Freeway towards Euroa, taking Exit 17.



18. Hume & Hovell Cairn – Burtons Bridge, Euroa

Just over the Burtons Bridge, on Templeton Street, is a Hume and Hovell cairn. Stay and wander though this historic town. Visit the VC Memorial in Kirkland Avenue and Telegraph Park in Brock Street to learn about the military heritage of the town and region. Pick up a heritage walking map from the Euroa Hub at 50 Binney Street. www.visiteuroa.org.au/heritage Now we return to the Hume Freeway and head to Longwood, taking the second exit.

19. VC Memorial Tree and Cairn – Pub Paddock, Down Street, Longwood.

The Pub Paddock (behind the White Hart Hotel) is a delightful stop on this journey, with picnic facilities and a toilet. Here you can sit beside the tree planted in honour of Major Tubb VC, one of the three men from the district that were awarded a Victoria Cross.

From here turn left onto the Avenel-Longwood Road and head towards our last stop at Avenel.

20. Hume and Hovell Cairn

– Livingstone Street, Avenel

When you arrive in Avenel, keep left and don't cross the railway line. Turn left at the Cemetery (look out for Red Kelly's grave – Ned's dad, beside the road) and meander around Jubilee Park. Just before the T intersection, on the right opposite the pub, hidden under trees, is a memorial to the explorers, specifically Hume and Hovell.