

TOWN MAP

See the Sights Recreation Walk

Commence at Centenary Park and following the map travelling back in time to experience the original buildings and sites as signposted. Every building has a story to tell and many of those featured on the walk are still in use today. The purpose may have altered to better suit today's community needs, an indication of Dowerin's adaptability and willingness to embrace change. The old blends with new as you take in some of Dowerin's latest embellishments: the Street Sculpture, Threatened Species Garden and Rusty the Tin Dog, recent additions now firmly placed in Dowerin's history.

Accommodation/ Services

- Hotel
- Fuel
- Motel / Caravan Park
- Centenary Park
- Indoor Sporting Complex
- Bowling Club
- Golf Club
- Swimming Pool
- Tennis Courts
- See the Sights
- Exhibition Hall
- Dowerin Museum
- Post Office
- Street Sculpture
- Masonic Hall
- Road Board Office
- National Bank
- Threatened Species Garden

Information

- Information Bay / Rest Area
- Shire Office
- Bank Agency
- Shire Office
- Town Hall
- Field Days Office
- Emergency
- Police Station
- Fire Brigade
- Ambulance
- Silver Chain Nursing Post

Public Toilets

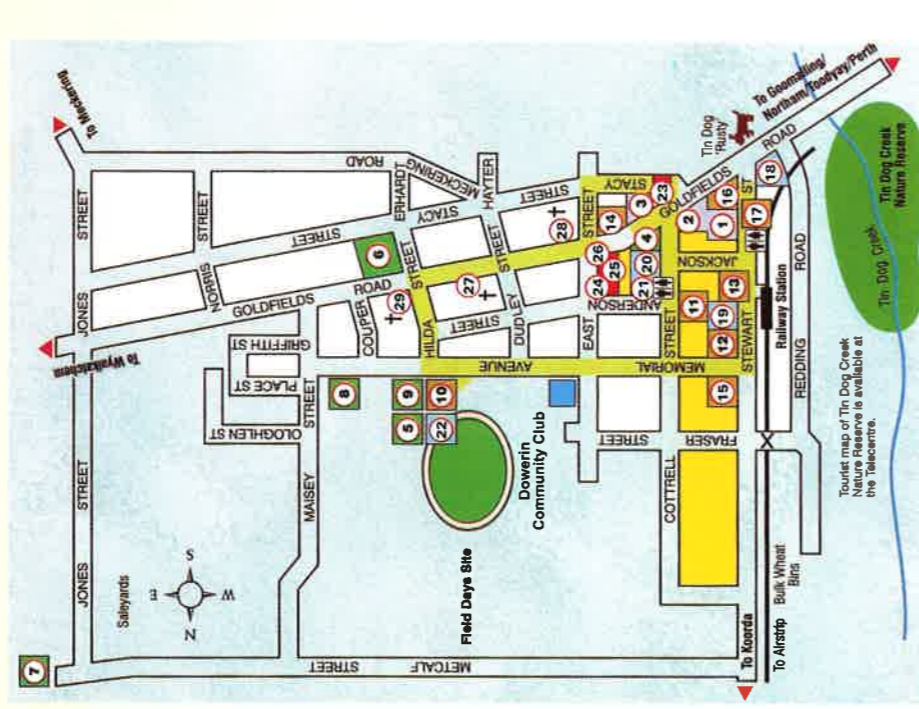
- Exhibition Hall
- Dowerin Museum
- Post Office
- Street Sculpture
- Masonic Hall
- Road Board Office
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Business Centres

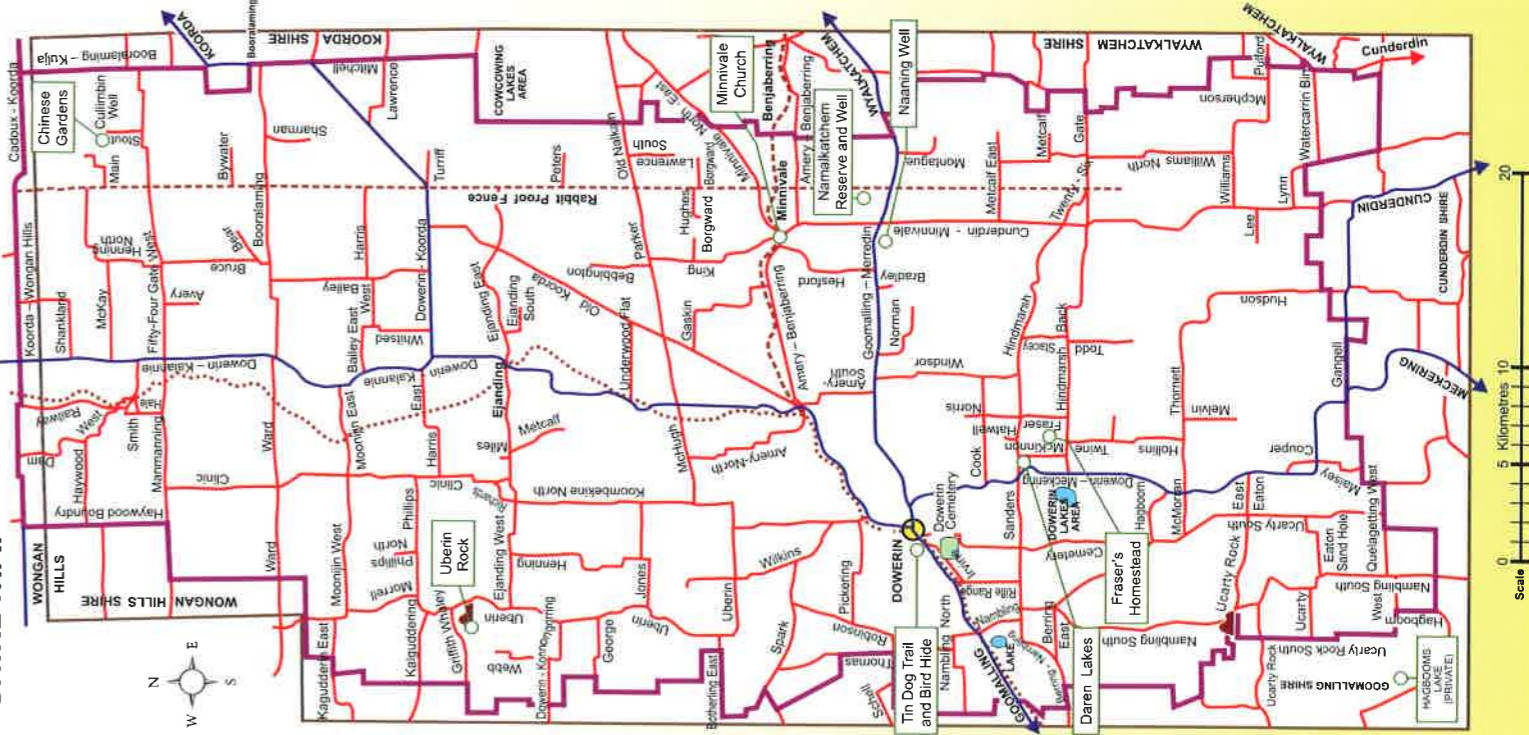
- Exhibition Hall
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- Post Office
- Street Sculpture
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- Road Board Office
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- Threatened Species Garden

Churches

- St Barnabas Anglican Church
- Uniting Church
- St Therese's Catholic Church



SHIRE MAP

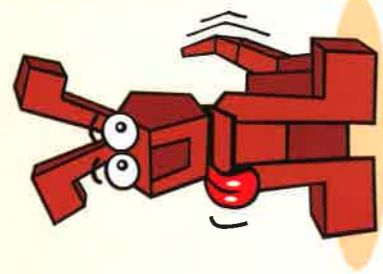


Hello! I'm Rusty the Tin Dog and Welcome to my Tin Dog Creek Reserve!

I was born in 2004 when the children from the Dowerin District High School developed a project initiative to encourage people to stop in Dowerin. The students helped with my initial design, sourced funding for my materials and employed an artist to build me. The students were inspired by the legend of my home, the Tin Dog Creek, which originally got its name during settlement in the area and the commencement of mining in the Yilgarn Goldfields.

The story goes that settlers in Northam started using the surrounding land to feed and rest their stock during winter and driving them home when the feed started to dry off. A track was opened up as a result of this, leading to Moujakinie, Yarragin and Eunui. From Goomalling onwards, the road followed a chain of water soaks, one of which became known as the 13-mile soak. The miners who were on their way to the Goldfields would leave their empty tinned beef cans (affectionately called 'tinned dog') by the water soak, thus Tin Dog Creek got its unique name (S. Gervas 1997).

Join me in an adventure throughout Tin Dog Creek by following the green or red Rusty signs to enjoy the long or the short walk trail. There are many educational signs for your interest and some resting points along the way.



Features

Spot the Kangaroo Shelter

The thick tangled looking shrub is the Leafless Ballart (Exocarpos aphylla) and is being used by kangaroos as a resting place. Kangaroos are more nocturnal than diurnal and will always rest during the heat of the day if given the choice. They seek out dense shrubs to give shade and cover for security rather than for night time sleeping.



Keep your eyes open for the Tin Dog Termite Mounds

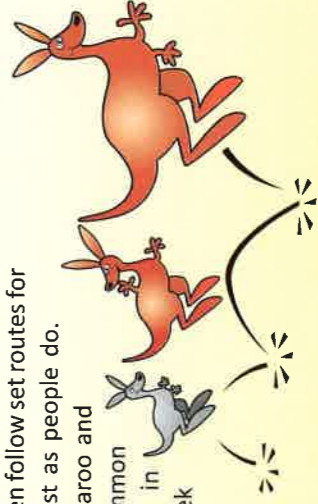
Clay mounds are built by a few wood eating species but are mostly built up by grass eating or harvesting termites. Both types of termites play a crucial ecological role in grazing and breaking down woody material. These clay mounds are designed to be long lasting and able to withstand fire, heavy rain and the relentless drying summer heat, however they cannot always protect the termites from the claws of the echidna. In Western Australia termites are an echidna's stable diet. Have a look for signs of wildlife such as echidna digs which appear to be messy scratching holes.



Kangaroo Freeway

Keep an eye out for the Freeway traffic as you turn left down the Kangaroo Freeway Creek. Kangaroo pathways often look like paths worn by bush walkers at first sight. These pathways demonstrate the kangaroos don't hop around the bush at random but often follow set routes for convenience, just as people do.

Both Grey Kangaroo and the Euro (or Common Wallaroo) live in the Tin Dog Creek Reserve.



Wander through the Gimlet and York Gum Wonderland

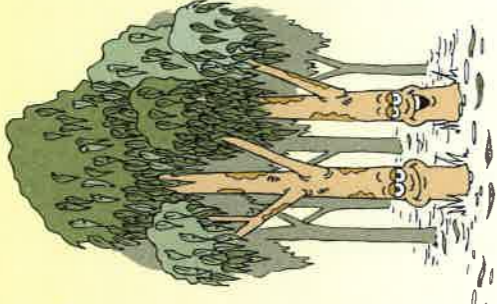
Tin Dog Creek Reserve features a range of different vegetation types each favoured by certain species of flora and fauna. At this point open woodlands of Red Flowered Mallee give way to Gimlet woodland, look for the tall straight Gimlet tree with its distinctive coppers trunk, often featuring trunk spirals.

York Gum Woodlands are found as you walk along the firebreak towards the end of the trail. York Gums once covered vast areas of the Wheatbelt and although they are still locally common, this species has been reduced to small remnants that are suffering from weed degradation and disturbances.

Enter the Melaleuca Maze!

The track passes through one of the richest Melaleuca areas with remarkable diversity of the Honey Myrtle Species found in this reserve.

A dense stand of Broombush can be found in the reserve with these straight stemmed shrubs forming an almost impenetrable thicket. These shrubs are showing signs of having been salt affected as the water table rises. As this species has only a very limited tolerance to salinity this entire thicket is at risk if the water table is not stabilised.



Enjoy a picnic in the Hobbits Forest of Pear Fruited Mallee - Dowerin Rose

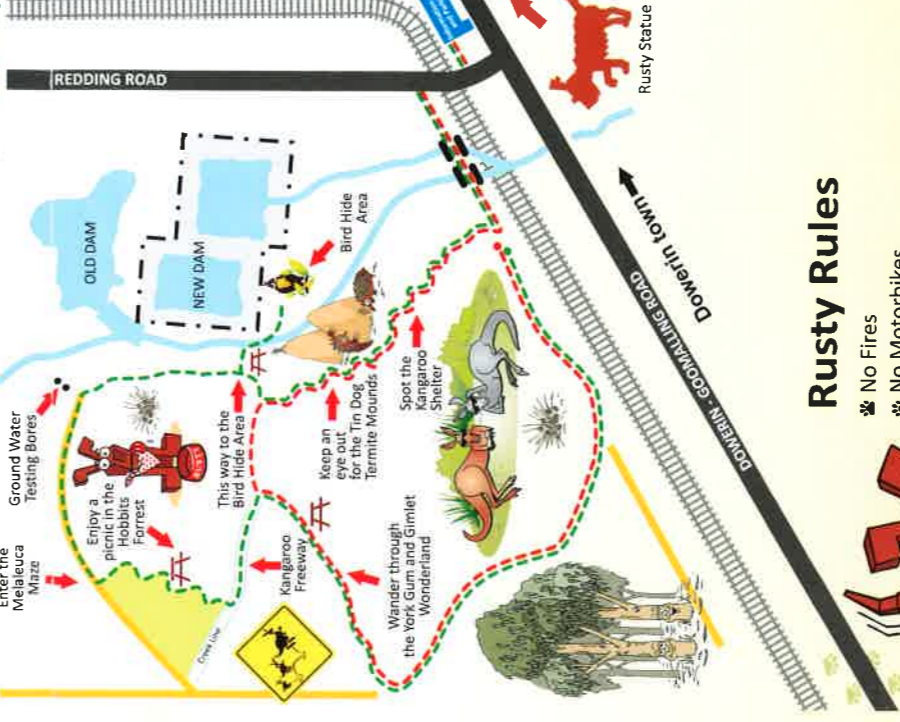
Wandering through the Broombush you will come across an incredible stand of contorted knar led Red Flowered Mallees, also known as 'The Dowerin Rose'.

The pure stands of beautiful Red Flowered Mallee are now rare in the district and seen by very few people. Deep crimson red flowers are produced from October to January though some forms have yellow or cream flowers.



Long Trail - minimum of 1.5 hours.

Short Trail - approximately 45 minutes.



Rusty Rules

- No Fires
- No Motorbikes
- Dogs are allowed, but only on a leash.
- Please take great care in crossing the railway.
- Please respect the Reserve by using the designated walk trail only.
- Please take all rubbish with you.
- Park only at the information bay.
- And finally....have fun and enjoy following me through the Tin Dog



Why Walking?

Simplicity: no equipment or particular skills required.
Convenient: anywhere, any time.
Minimal cost.

Time to yourself or getting to know your neighbourhood.

The Benefits

Healthy heart: increased cardiovascular fitness; reduced risk of heart disease and stroke.
Reduced high blood pressure; improves circulation.
Loss of excess body fat.

Reduce the risk of developing diabetes (non-insulin dependent)



Health Services

Non-Emergency Police

Ambulance, Police & Fire

Service Numbers

Ph: (08) 9631 1008

Dowerin Bed & Breakfast

Goomalling Road, Dowerin

www.dowerinbandb.com

Ph: (08) 9631 1135

Dowerin Roadhouse & Caravan Park

Open for meals, coffee & accommodation 7 days per week.

Goldfields Road

Ph: (08) 9631 1206

Dowerin Commercial Hotel

Accommodation available 7 days per week, open for lunch and evening meals Wednesday - Saturday.

4 Stewart Street, Dowerin

Ph (08) 9631 1202

Bookings are by arrangement through the Dowerin Visitors Centre or through the Shire Administration Offices with a \$5 donation.

Dowerin District Museum

A visit to the museum offers a unique view of how settlers lived in a genuine cottage with furnishings from 1915-1930's and artefacts from around the district.

Bookings are by arrangement through the Dowerin Visitors Centre or through the Shire Administration Offices with a \$5 donation.

Dowerin Visitor Centre

For more information about the walk trail or any other services please call in at the Dowerin Visitor Centre (pictured above), located at 13 Stewart Street Dowerin.

Ph: (08) 9631 1662

Geographic Characteristics

Dowerin is situated 156 kilometres (2 hours) north east of Perth and can be reached travelling via Northam and Goomalling or through Toodyay and Goomalling.

Land use is predominantly broad acre agriculture. The dominant business activities are grain growing and sheep production for meat and wool.

The Shire of Dowerin has an area of some 1,863 square kilometres. The town lies in the central Wheatbelt and enjoys a temperate climate with winter rainfall (average is 365mm per annum) and hot, dry summers. Average temperatures range from a maximum of 33 degrees Celsius in summer to a minimum of 6 degrees in winter.



The first Road Board was formed in 1912. The area was previously administered by the Goomalling Road Board and the new Dowerin Road Board covered a vast area including Wyalkatchem and Koorda.



The earliest public buildings were at this site. These buildings were a School and a Methodist Church.

The first settlement for agriculture was in 1897 and the town was not established until 1906 when the railway line was extended from Goomalling. The town grew rapidly from that point, with the first store opening in 1906 and in a short time was able to cater for most of the settlers' needs.

A Brief History

The name 'Dowerin' is taken from the aboriginal word 'Daren' that was given to a series of lakes some 8 kilometres south of the town established near a soak or water hole now known as 'Tin Dog Creek'.

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Minnivale was once a thriving little local community with a co-op, baker, butcher, boarding house, post office, bank, sports facilities, church and a state school. "On train days, up to 30 horses and carts would be tied up at Harris's store as most people would come to town". Much of the town is still intact although a range of buildings are now in private hands. Spot the old Bakery oven located on site.



A new history is emerging in Minnivale with the development of the Wheatbelt Heritage Rail project which promises to reinvigorate Minnivale as a themed rail heritage town. Although in its early stages, work has commenced to transform the former Minnivale Wheat bin into a Heritage Rail Interpretative Centre showcasing the impact of rail on the social and commercial fabric of the Wheatbelt through static and interactive displays.



The Rabbit Proof Fence No.2 runs north/south through the eastern third of the shire. It was built in 1907-1908 and much of the fence remains in good condition. Mileposts mark the distance from the south coast. The fence originally went from Point Anne to north of Cue, where it turned east to join Rabbit Proof Fence No.1 at Gum Creek.

It is one of three long fences in the state designed to control the rabbit plague, which could wreak enormous havoc in agricultural areas. The fences failed in their purpose, although much time and money was expended to make them work. They stand as a monument to human intention to control a pest, which was and is a national problem. The fences are an indication of the widely held fear of the rabbit invasion and the limited and desperate ideas used to control the pest.



Namelkatchem Well, which is situated approximately 100 metres within the Namelkatchem Reserve, was initially used to provide water to miners travelling to the Goldfields. It was later used to provide water for horse teams transporting wheat to Minnivale. The well was built some time before 1865, making it the earliest European built structure in the area. It held sufficient water for 70 horses.



Naaning Well. On the 23rd of April 1869, an expedition led by the 22 year old explorer and government surveyor, John Forrest camped overnight at Naaning Well. The party included a Mr George Monger as the second in command, Mr Malcolm Hamersley, a probation prisoner by the name of David Morgan who was the expedition's shoe smith, and two aboriginals, Tommy Windich and Jemmy Mungaro. The purpose of the expedition was to search for the remains of another explorer, Dr Leichardt and his party, who had disappeared into the West Australian wilderness some time before.



Dowerin Centenary Park is the perfect picnic break complete with built in BBQ, picnic furniture and plenty of room for the kids to play.



Sundial. Positioned centrally within the town square, the dial is an abstraction of a wheat husk, perched some 12 metres high. The husk, as it is referred to, contorts and folds through and around the triangular legs finally terminating at a shadow casting leaf.



Daren Lakes. A former series of fresh water lakes, some 8 kilometres south of the townsite marks the first settlement of Dowerin in 1897. Around this time the Coolgardie Goldfields were declining and the forest country seemed to offer better prospects than the uncertainty of the Goldfields. The first settlers at Daren Lakes were the Anderson, Couper, Stewart and Fraser families encouraged by "the rich red soil of the forest country" and the lakes with permanent water during winter. The Couper's organ brought with the first Women Settlers to the Shire and played on their first night in the Dowerin Forest "made the forest ring" and today can be viewed as a precious exhibit of the Dowerin District Museum.



The extension of the railway in 1906 from Goomalling was unable to be built in the Daren Lakes area and as a consequence, the townsite was moved to the present site. Look for the brass plaque marking the spot where the original town reserve once stood.