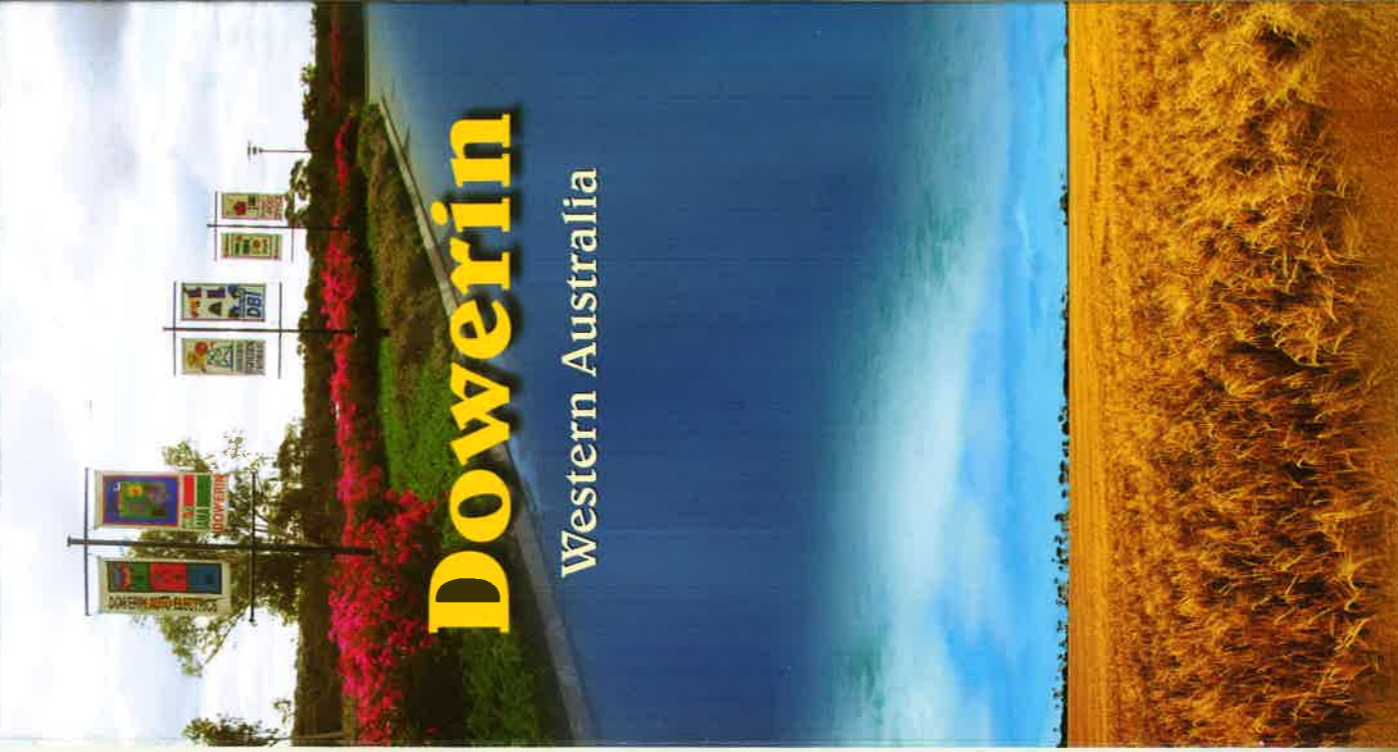


“Home of the Field Day”



Dowerin

Western Australia

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



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.



13 Cottrell Street, DOWERIN WA 6461
 For more information about any of the above and other services please contact the Shire Administration Centre on (08) 9631 1202 or Dowerin Telecentre on (08) 9631 1662.
 Email: dows@shire@dowerin.wa.gov.au
 Web: www.dowerin.wa.gov.au

The Field Day was first held in 1965, and 20 exhibitors attracted 2000 visitors.

There is another caravan site within the recreation and Field Day's complex, with a total of over 40 bays.

The Dowerin GWN Field Day is a three-day event held each year on the last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of August. The Field Day provides an opportunity for manufacturers to exhibit farm machinery, equipment and allied industries to primary producers, city and overseas visitors.

Events

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Dowerin Roadhouse and Carat Park
 12 Goldfields Road
 Ph/ Fax: (08) 9631 1135

Single and double fully self-contained units with tea/ coffee facilities, TV, and fridge. Laundry, parking and BBQ. Tariff available on application. ATM, Visa, Mastercard, EFTPOS.

Accommodation



Dowerin B & B
 320 Goomalling Road
 Ph: (08) 9631 1008
 Email: elizabethm@westnet.com.au

Choose between either a double room which includes a wood fire, TV and video, or a family room with one double and 2 (bunk) beds. Air-conditioned for your comfort and you are welcome to use the family lounge room where you will find TV, video, DVD, music, books and games. Business facilities available. Includes full cooked or light continental breakfast. Evening meal by arrangement.

The Commercial Hotel, built in 1908 by FW Gustav Liebe (who also constructed His Majesty's Theatre).

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.

Places of Interest

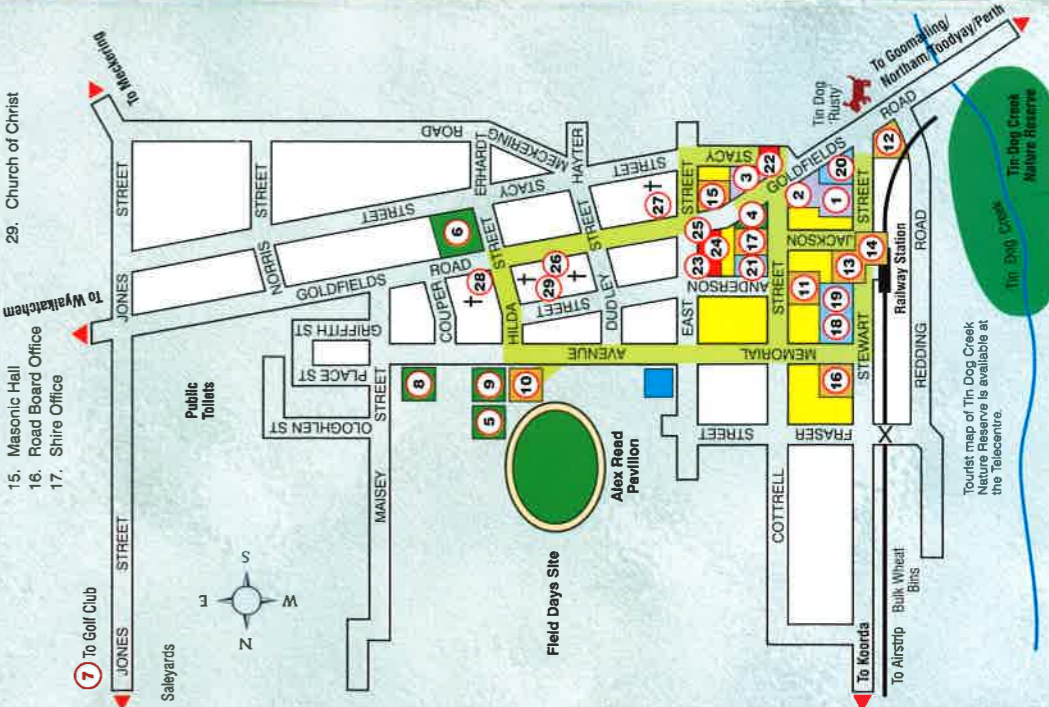


Sundial — Positioned centrally within the town square, the dial is an abstraction of a wheat husk, perched some 12 metres high. The husk, as it is referred to, contorts and folds through and around the triangular legs finally terminating at a shadow casting leaf.

Tin Dog Creek has great historical significance. In the late 1800's with the Yilgarn goldfields opening up, the creek was on the track used by the travelling miners. They called their tinned beef "tinned dog" and were less than concerned about leaving piles of empty cans by the creek — hence the name Tin Dog Creek.



Tin Dog Creek Walking Trail and Bird Hide — just off Redding Road, about 100 metres from the tourist information bay on Goldfields Road. Walk through some of the last stands of untouched bush in the wheatbelt.



- Accommodation**
 - Commercial Hotel
 - Dowerin Roadhouse
 - Motel & Caravan Park
- Recreational Area**
 - Centenary Park
 - Indoor Sporting Complex
 - Dowerin Bowling Club
 - Golf Club
 - Swimming Pool
 - Tennis Courts
- Community Facilities**
 - Post Office
 - Telecentre, Library, Information and Challenge Bank Agency
 - National Bank
 - Town Hall
- Emergency**
 - Police Station
 - Fire Brigade
 - Ambulance
 - Silver Chain Nursing Post
- Business Centres**
- Churches**
 - St. Barnabas Anglican Church
 - Uniting Church
 - St. Theresa's Catholic Church
 - Church of Christ
- Tourist Information/Places of Interest**
 - Exhibition Hall
 - Dowerin Museum
 - Information Bay/Rest Area
 - Sundial
 - Water Feature
 - Masonic Hall
 - Road Board Office
 - Shire Office
- Dowerin District High School**

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.

Hagboom's Lake is fed by a spring all year round. Originally a fresh water lake, it has now gone saline. The Dowerin Salt Lake Sailing Club hold competitive and social sailing on the lake between November and March.

Other lakes in the district are the Dowerin Lakes which was the original townsite, and Koombekine Lakes.



Namekcatchem Reserve is a 600 acre CALM Class A1 Reserve 17 km east of the town of Dowerin, at the intersection of the Cunderdin-Minnivale and Goomalling-Merredin Roads. Still visible today are wagon wheel tracks made by travellers on their journey to the goldfields in the late 1800's.

Namekcatchem Well, which is situated about 100 metres within the Namekcatchem Reserve, was initially used to provide water to miners travelling to the gold fields. 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 shoemaker, and two aborigines, Tommy Windich and Jimmy 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. Unfortunately, there was very little feed for the horses and there was considerable delay in collecting the horses next day and the party did not get moving till 12 noon. That day they covered eight miles (13 kilometres) and camped at another well call Pingepperr for the night.

Fraser's Cottage and Blazed Tree



William Fraser arrived in Dowerin in 1898, taking up a heavily timbered block of land. He marked one tree with a blaze in

order to find his way to his property, and this tree remains. Although the house is in a poor state of repair, the most remarkable thing about it is the number of building materials utilised. He began with a mud brick construction, moved to weatherboard and Tin Dog Trail completed the house with a kiln baked and Bird Hide extension.

Daren Lakes — This is a series of fresh water lakes, some 8 kilometres south of the town. It was originally established as a watering hole and resting place for prospectors and travellers on their way to the goldfields. It was first settled in 1897, but the railway in 1906 was unable to be built in the area and as a consequence, the townsite was moved to the present site. There is a brass plaque marking the spot where the original town reserve once stood.



Minnivale Church, built in 1925 is an excellent example of a vernacular church building in the wheatbelt. Minnivale was named by Alexander Forrest in 1911 after the daughter of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Miss Minnie Fraser. Today, it is mainly used by the Church of Christ and is located just a few kilometres north of Namekcatchem Reserve along the Cunderdin-Minnivale Road.

Chinese Gardens (Cullimbim Well) — the well was constructed in the 1890's by pastoralist, C.E. Dempster, and was probably used as a watering spot for people moving from the Pilbara Goldfields to the Yilgarn. In this reserve are three cleared patches of ground surrounded by low mud and stone walls. It is believed that these spaces were cleared and walls built to grow vegetables and catch water for the gardens, by the people travelling through the area.



Rusty the Tin Dog — look out for 'Rusty' at the West entrance to town, a Dowerin District High School Project.

