

# Introduction

The establishment of the township of Tungamah in 1875 was followed by the erection of some fine buildings, and the commencement of a variety of businesses to serve the needs of the growing community. Within a few years there were six hotels, four banks, a timber yard, three brickworks, a butter factory, an engineering works and numerous retail outlets of various kinds.

Most of these businesses have ceased to exist, and several fine buildings have been lost. Others have fallen into disrepair.

It therefore seemed important to the community both to remind local residents and to inform visitors of Tungamah's rich and diverse history.

Accordingly this walk has been established, incorporating twenty four podium signs, which will enable the visitor to imagine what a bustling community this must have been a century and more ago.

The walk covers most of the town and incorporates many of the significant sites. It will take perhaps one and a half hours to complete. The Tungamah Community Representative Committee welcome you to Tungamah and hope that you are enriched by this journey through the history of one small community.

We hope that this brochure has enhanced your enjoyment of the exploration of our historic town.

Copies of Colin Campbell's book "Just about Tungamah 1875 – 2002" is available from the Historical Society and for more information contact  
03 5748 5198.



**TUNGAMAH**  
Community  
Representative  
Committee

# Tungamah Heritage Walk

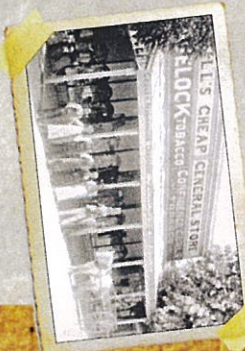


Welcome to the town of Tungamah, once a bustling hive of industry but still a town with a rich sense of community, resilient in times of disaster and proud of a very strong heritage. Colin Campbell a past resident captured the town's history in his book "Just About Tungamah 1875 – 2002". Colin's book inspired the Tungamah Community Representative Committee to develop this walk to ensure Tungamah's history is not forgotten for many years to come.

Take the time to wander our walk and imagine life from a bygone era.

## 1 Tungamah Store

This store was erected in 1885. After the main body of the shop was destroyed by fire during 1887, it was quickly rebuilt in brick and has seen very little alteration since that time. Features of this building hold state-wide historical significance.



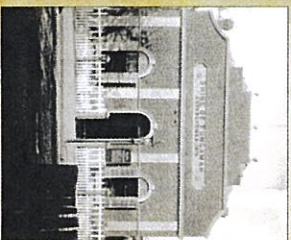
## 2 Peter Peters' Store



Mr. Peter Peters came to Tungamah in 1930 and operated a store here until 1966. The building was demolished in 1986, one hundred years after it was erected.

## 3 Tungamah Shire Hall

The original building stood on this site from 1884 until it was replaced with more modern premises in Middleton Street in 1964. The Honour Roll containing the names of 508 shire residents who served in the various armed forces during World War I has been relocated to the Court House Museum (see no.18).

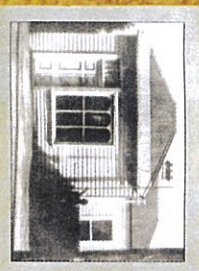


## 4 Victoria Hotel

This business operated from 1885 to 1900, when it became a private home. In 1995 the building was demolished, and the bricks used in the present residence.

## 6 Colonial Bank of Australasia

This bank commenced trading in Tungamah in 1881, at first in rented premises and later erected its own premises during 1885. Many local people were dismayed when the bank closed on 27 September 1894. It was used as a solicitor's office and hairdressing salon before becoming a private residence and was later demolished in 1997.



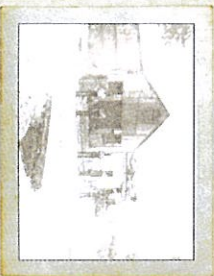
## 7 Tungamah Hotel

The current building was built in 1891, and replaces an earlier one on the same site. A fire which destroyed the entire building was the first call on the newly formed fire brigade.



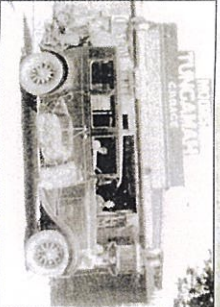
## 8 Skinners Engineering

Mr George Skinner purchased this land in 1886 and built this workshop. With his brother John they established a family engineering works which existed for more than a century and involved four generations. The contribution of the firm was recognised in 1989, when Council mounted a Skinner Brothers plough on a plinth outside the then Council Offices in Middleton Street.



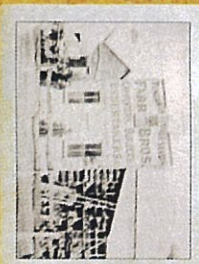
## 9 Tungamah Garage

A garage has operated on this site since the 1920s, and the existing building was erected in 1970. During the 1950's the then owners held the contract for the school bus runs between Tungamah and Benalla.



## 10 Tungamah Timber Yards

The business was established in the 1870s by Mr. Thomas Farr, a respected builder who won contracts for the building of the Presbyterian and Anglican Churches, and the Shire Hall. The business closed in 1940.



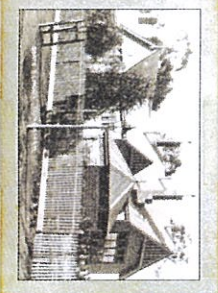
## 11 St Alban's Church of England

The foundation stone of this church was laid on 30 May 1889 with the opening and consecration service conducted on 20 October 1889. Further extensions to the building were commenced in 1912 however, with falling attendances the discontinuation of services came during 2012. The ceiling is of kauri pine and the western end displays a beautiful window of cathedral and stained glass.



## 12 Tungamah State School No. 2225

When this school opened on 9 February 1880, its one small single room became quite inadequate and was replaced with four classrooms and an attached residence which opened on 14th January 1884. Additional rooms were added in 1890, 1905 and 1907, and in 1909 two shelter sheds were erected, one of which has been retained on the property as an item of historical significance. A new brick veneer school was opened in Tower Street in 1971.

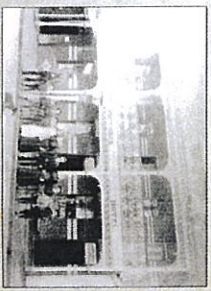


## 13 Presbyterian (Uniting) Church

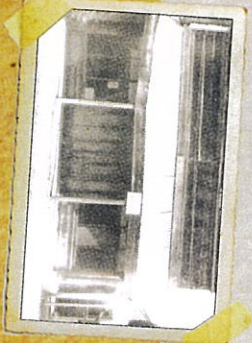
The foundation stone of this church was laid on 6 April 1885 with an official opening performed on 23 August 1885. When the local Methodist Church closed in



## 5 Mr W Parsell's Store



and Mr W (Bill) Farsell moved in about 1934. The shop was closed in the mid 1960's and later became the first location of the Tungamah Museum. Before it was finally demolished the baker's oven was carefully removed and relocated at the present Tungamah Museum.



11

12

13

14

15

Spry Street

10

Barr Street

9

Berndt Street

24

23

22

21

Boyd Street

20

Spry Street

16

Argus Street

17

Middleton Street

8

Burn Street

Berndt Street

7

6

5

4

Bailey Street

Barr Street

1

2

3

Boyd Street

19

Telford St

Bailey Street

Argus Street

Ewart St

18

Station Street

Boosey Creek

Sunday School classes were held until the mid 1980s.

## 14 Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church



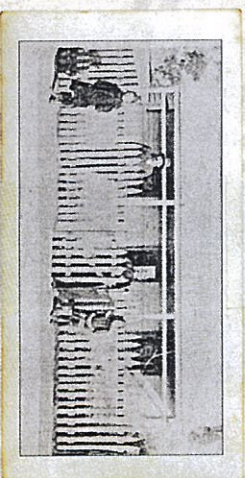
This site was purchased in 1885 with plans and specifications submitted to Council in October 1885. The first Mass was celebrated in the new church on 31 January 1886. The building was extended in 1907 and further enhanced with the acquisition of the Stations of the Cross in 1917.

## 15 Water Tower

The water tower was constructed in 1909 by the Tungamah Waterworks Trust, as part of a plan to provide reticulated water to the Tungamah township. This water tower, together with those at St James and Kalamaitie, was designed by [Sir] John Monash, and built by his firm, the Reinforced Concrete Monier and Pipe Construction Company.



## 16 Martha Jones' Birthing House



Following the death of her husband Carl, Martha Buerkner was forced to leave their property at Youarang in July 1886, together with her nine children, all under the age of 18. Within a short period Martha had married her next-door neighbour, John Woods, and it was during this marriage that Martha began to operate a "Birthing House" on this site. Martha known as Granny Jones died in 1921 and is buried in the Tungamah Cemetery.

## 17 The Bible Christian (Methodist) Church

This was the first church built in Tungamah somewhere around 1880. During 1902 various branches of Methodism united to form the Methodist Church of Australia. The strong membership of the Tungamah Circuit transferred into the amalgamated body. Worship continued in this church until 1947, when it was closed, after which the building was removed and the land sold.



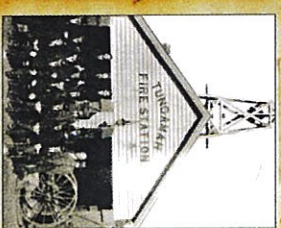
## 18 Tungamah Court House

This building served as a court house for some eighty years after its opening in 1890. It has served since as a Youth Club and Pre-School. It is now occupied by the Tungamah Historical Society and serves as a museum.



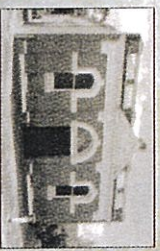
## 19 The Fire Station

A Fire Brigade was formed in 1888, and a fire station erected on this site in 1889. When the Tungamah Rural Fire Brigade was formed in 1935 it obtained its own unit which was also garaged in the station. The building was enhanced with a new timber front and roller doors. In 1991 a more modern building was erected in Boyd Street.



## 20 Ionic Lodge No. 109, Tungamah

Soon after the proclamation of the township of Tungamah in 1875, there was a move to establish a Lodge. On 19 January 1886 eleven petitioning Brethren were duly constituted into the Ionic Lodge, and following the consecration ceremony, a further eight candidates were initiated. Recognising the need for autonomous premises, this Masonic Temple was built during 1889 however the Lodge closed in April 2011.



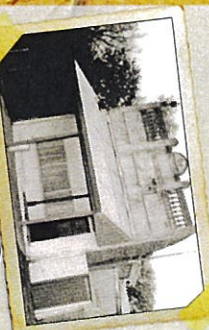
## 21 Tungamah Post Office

The building was completed in 1889 and operated as a Post Office until 1968. It is now a private residence. As the town grew, more spacious premises were required and the Post Office was relocated into a store on the site now occupied by the Central Murray Credit Union and again today houses an operating Post Office.



## 22 The Pharmacy/Bakery

This building began its life in 1890 as a pharmacy. In 1915 a bakery was installed in the premises, and operated with various owners until 1976.



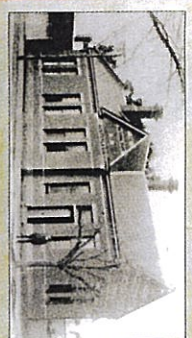
## 23 Commercial Hotel

This hotel originally erected in 1886 by Mr A McIntyre who named it Mac's Commercial Hotel. By 1900 it had been enlarged to provide fourteen rooms. In that year, the Victoria, the Cocked Hat and the Farmers Arms hotels were closed and the Commercial became a most popular establishment. Trading ceased in 1941 and the building was then used as a private residence until being demolished in 1984 and replaced with a modern home.



## 24 The National Bank of Australasia

A sub-branch of the Bank opened in the Tungamah Hotel in 1882. This land was purchased in 1883, and after a brief period in a weatherboard office, a fine brick building was built in 1888.



The Tungamah Community Representative Committee sincerely thank the following local businesses, community groups, families and organisations who have contributed in making the Tungamah Historical Walk project come to fruition.



Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal  
Moira Shire Council

Bourke Harvesting

Central Murray Credit Union

Cooper Family

Cuss Buslines

John, Mary (Panter), Bowler, Peter and Mervyn Saunders (Nieces and Nephews of the Late Mr WA Parsell)

Lawrence Brothers

Megarity Sand and Gravel

Members of the Ionic Lodge, Tungamah

Relatives of the late Mr Basil S (Mick) Saunders

Saunders Family

Tungamah and District Historical Society.

Tungamah and District Senior Citizens' Club

Tungamah Uniting Church

Yarrawonga Anglican Parish

Tungamah Car Sales

Tungamah Football Netball Club

Tungamah Garage

Tungamah Post Office