

# HISTORY OF BELTANA

## A township that dates from 1870

We trust you will enjoy your visit to our beautiful town and gain an understanding of its historical importance. There are signs indicating significant points of interest in the town, sharing the history with you.

Warrioota Creek used to run permanently and Beltana was abundant with water. The Adnyamathanha people made their home here more than 60,000 years ago. They were the first inhabitants and continue to be residents today.

The pastoralists arrived in the 1850s with the area becoming the central holding of the Beltana Pastoral Company, one of South Australia's large grazing empires.

The township of Beltana dates from 1870 with the development of the Overland Telegraph line and the discovery of copper ore at Sliding Rock, 20 km to the east. Beltana was formally surveyed in 1873.

Martin's Eating House began operating in 1871 where the track to the copper mine crossed Warrioota Creek.

The street plan was surveyed the next year, while the town's heyday came in the 1880s following the completion of the Railway in 1881. Beltana became a construction camp and railhead until the line reached Marree. Suburbs for the town were also part of the original survey.

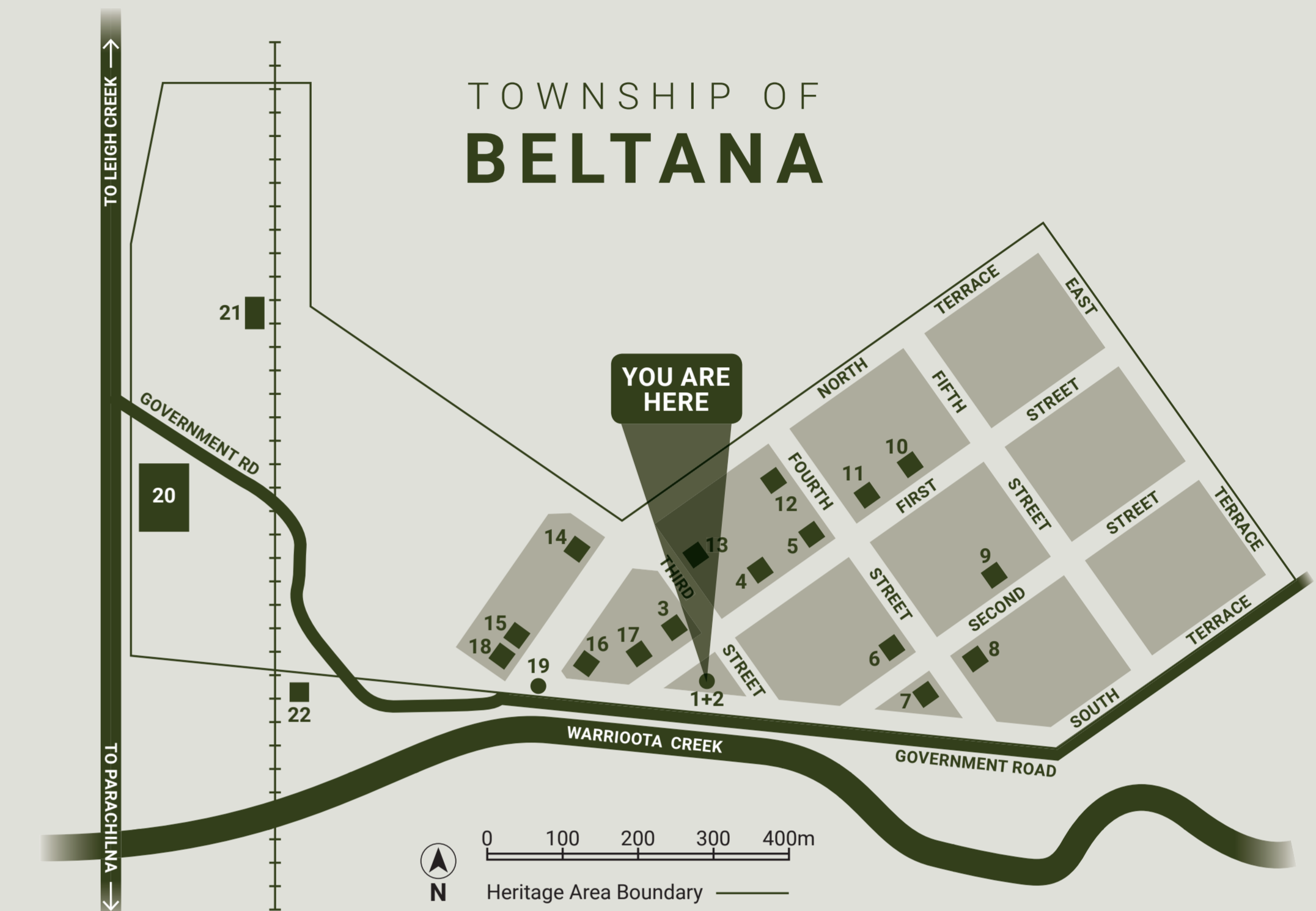
In 1894, a Presbyterian Manse became the base for the Smith of Dunesk Mission. Reverend John Flynn, who later established the Royal Flying Doctor Service, was based in Beltana from 1911. His experience here convinced him of the need for outback medical services which led to the formation of the Australian Inland Mission. In 1919 a nursing home was opened at the manse.

Beltana changed significantly after coal production began at Leigh Creek in 1941. In 1956 the railway was realigned away from the town and in 1983 the road was also realigned.

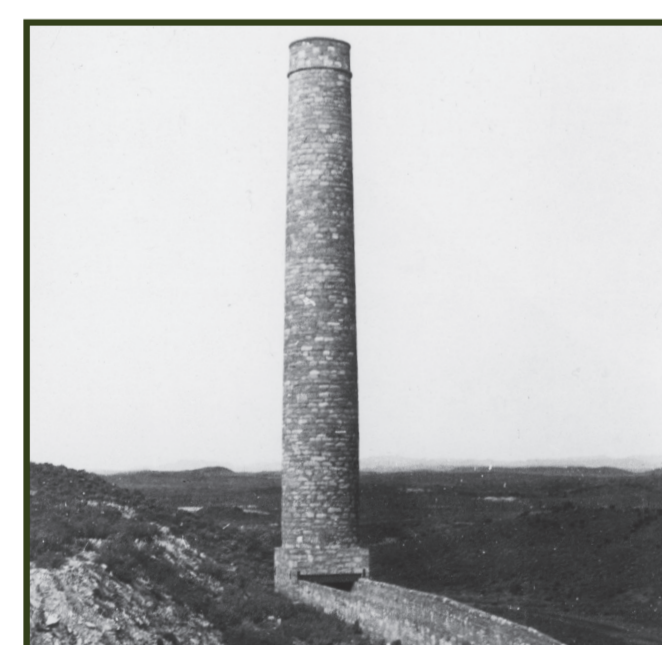
The town of Beltana was declared a State Heritage Area in 1987 in recognition of its significance as a link with South Australia's history.

Beltana has a vibrant community that is passionate about the town and its heritage. We have developed these signs to assist you in learning about Beltana.

You are welcome to stroll around the town on the roads and enjoy the experience. We request that you do not enter any properties as they are our homes.



SIGN	NAME	SIGN	NAME
1	History of Beltana	13	Bakery
2	Government Well	14	Assembly Hall
3	Smith of Dunesk Mission	15	Martins House
4	State Heritage Area	16	General Store
5	School	17	Royal Victoria Hotel
6	Stone Cottages	18	Telegraph Station
7	Presbyterian Manse	19	Adnyamathanha People
8	Butchers House	20	Cemetery
9	Doig's House	21	Railway Station
10	Stone Cottage	22	Weir and dam
11	Australian Inland Mission	23	BBQ
12	Police Station		



**Sliding rock stack, 1920**  
State Library of South Australia – B 29642



**Wood's Goats at Beltana, 1897**  
State Library of South Australia – PRG 1610/11/88



**The renovated Smith of Dunesk house opening as the Australian Inland Mission's 'Mitchell Home', a nursing home, in 1919**  
State Library of South Australia – B 61970

