# GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE
## TOWN CHARACTER PROFILES

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

PLAN2PLACE

# CONTENTS

# METHODOLOGY

## GENERAL:

Character profiles have been prepared for all of the townships and localities in the Golden Plains Shire. These profiles include the location of each site in the Shire, distance from either Geelong, Ballarat or both, the history (a separate methodology for the historical analysis has been detailed below), the visual character or identity, land use types, housing types and approximate population.

The information for these character profiles was primarily drawn from structure plan reports prepared for Council between 2001 and 2019, as well as the Northern Settlement Strategy Area Profile brochures, 2016 and the South-West Landscape Assessment Study.

Where required, information was supplemented from the following sources:

- Profile I.D. Locality Snapshots.
- Digital news articles.
- Google Maps and Streetview.
- https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/2761850/couch-a-piece-of-merediths-street-art/.
- https://www.turtlebend.com.au/.
- https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/1198801/50-towns-in-50-days-light-years-in-cape-clear/.
- https://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/Dereel%20Community%20Plan%20Final.pdf.
- https://www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-04/Northern%20Streetscapes%20 Framework%20Plan%202022.pdf.
- https://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/coranregn.nsf/pages/corangamite_eruption_points_mercer.
- https://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/explore-location/390/devils-kitchen-geological-reserve/

Finally, a site visit of the northern towns (4/8/22) and another of the southern towns (12/8/22) was conducted by the project team along with Council officers ensuring the written analysis reflected the actual current state of the townships and localities.

## HISTORY METHODOLOGY:

Brief histories and overviews of the surviving heritage elements were prepared for nearly all localities in the Golden Plains Shire. The histories cover the establishment of European settlement, the reasons for its establishment, identification of the main period of development, and the key heritage places.

The information for these histories was primarily drawn from the Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study, both the Thematic Environmental History prepared in 2004 as part of Stage One, as well as precinct and place citations prepared in 2009 during Stage Two.

Where required, information from the Heritage Study was supplemented by:

- Structure Plan reports, prepared for the Shire of Golden Plains between 2001 and 2019, as well as the Northern Settlement Strategy Area Profile brochures, 2016.
- Heritage Victoria citations and VHI site cards.

- www.Victorianplaces.com.au
- http://www.maudedistrict.com/she-oaks.html.

**In a few cases, no historic information could be found from these sources, so no history was prepared for several localities. This was the case for Berrybank, Pittong, and Willowvale.**

## CITY AND TOWN HIERARCHY:

**A hierarchy has been established to categorise the townships of Golden Plains to assist Council with the preparation of their Housing Strategy. The hierarchy is derived from an assessment of population, community facilities, assets and attributes, and character. This hierarchy was based on a review of the hierarchies from the following publications:**

- Northern Settlement Strategy (NSS);
- G21 Regional Growth Plan and;
- Grampians Regional Growth Plans

The hierarchy for the Golden Plains Shire can be found on the **following** page.

## Regional Centre: (Pop. 10,000+) (Future Bannockburn)

Large, diverse population base. All essential services are connected. High diverse employment base with highest (regional) order of goods and services. May include some higher order services, such as hospital/ medical services and a variety of general education services. Community facilities include children's services, senior citizens' centre, community meeting place or hall, branch library, sporting ovals, tennis courts, netball, sports pavilion, children's playgrounds, indoor sports centre, possibly a swimming pool.

## Sub Regional Centre: (Pop. 5,000-10,000) (Bannockburn)

A sub regional centre town is smaller than a regional centre but bigger than a district town. Sub regional centres provide key retail and commercial services to the surrounding townships. A sub regional centre has at least 10 key commercial or community assets (detailed below). A sub regional centre must also have a town centre where these facilities are concentrated. A sub regional centre must have a population of at least 5,000 people.

## District Town (Pop. 2,000-5,000)

Diverse population base. Reticulated water and electricity services are connected, with sewerage potentially being connected. High access to services including police stations, medical/hospital facilities, educational facilities and a dominant business district with a moderate employment base. Community facilities include children's services, senior citizens' centre, community meeting place or hall, sporting ovals, tennis courts, netball and sports pavilion

## Town: (e.g. Napoleons, Shelford)

A town provides access to a limited range (more than three) of key community or retail facilities to the surrounding rural hinterland. A town must also have a town centre where these facilities are concentrated.

## Small Town: (e.g. Maude)

A small town supports small populations and provides a focal point for the surrounding rural community. A small town must have access to more than two key community or commercial facilities. A small town can have a town centre where these facilities are concentrated but they can also be dispersed throughout the township.

## Locality: (e.g. Russells Bridge, Steiglitz)

A locality supports a very small population and relies on surrounding small towns, district towns and regional cities for access to community and commercial facilities. Localities have little to no access to their own community and commercial facilities (zero to two).

**Key community and retail assets:**
**A)** Parks with community facilities like playground equipment, rotundas, memorials and other meeting points. Informal parks or national parks are not considered key community assets.
**B)** Community halls or public halls.
**C)** Retail stores that the community visit on a regular basis including supermarkets, general stores, post offices.
**D)** Cafes, pubs and restaurants. Premium offerings like wineries are not considered as these are not frequented by residents regularly.
**E)** Medical facilities including dentists, general practitioners, hospitals.
**F)** Emergency services including CFA fire station, police station, ambulance.

# SHIRE HIERARCHY MAP

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE
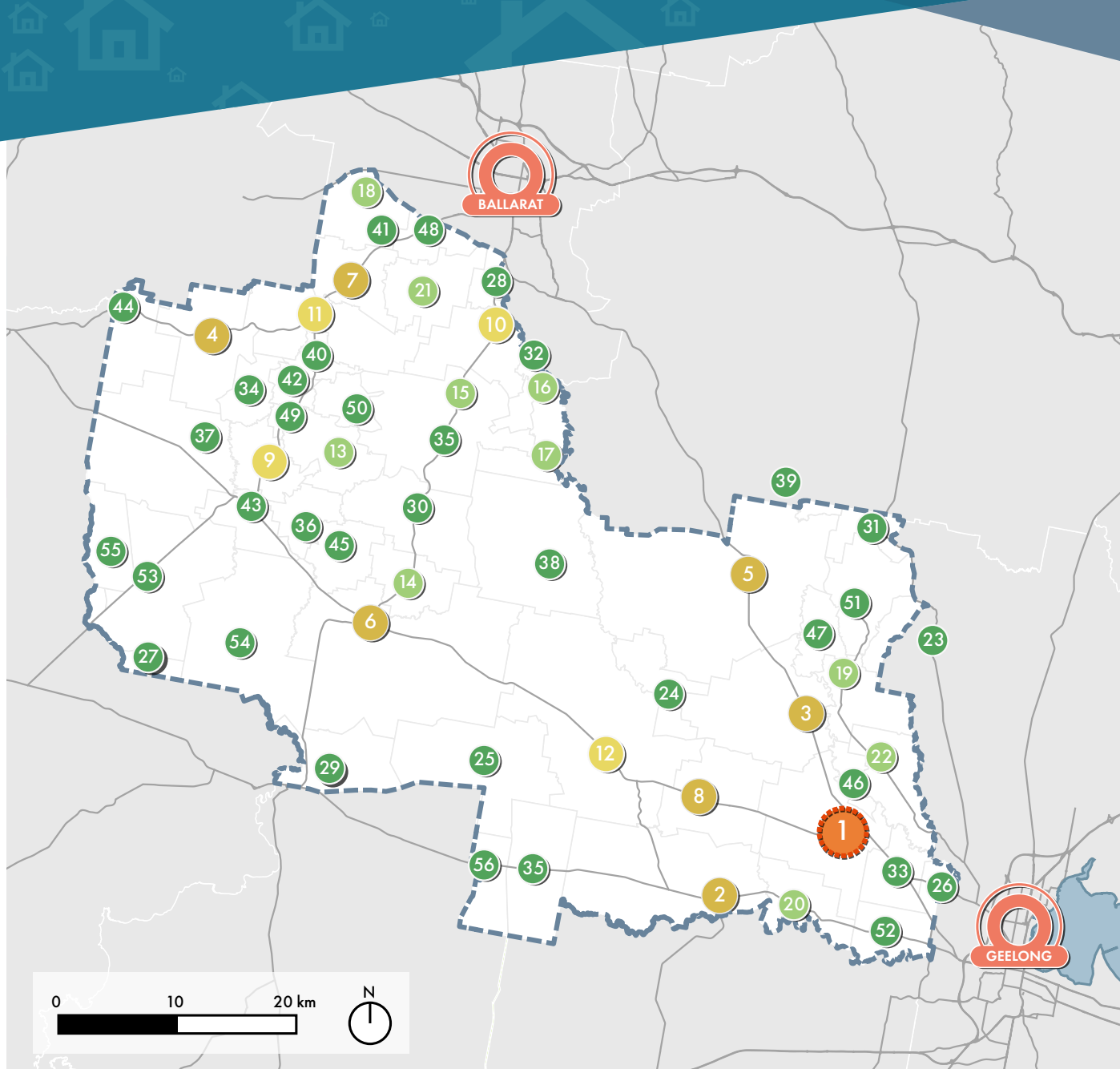


**REGIONAL CENTRE**

1. Future Bannockburn

**SUB-REGIONAL CENTRE**

1. Bannockburn

**DISTRICT TOWN**

2. Inverleigh
3. Lethbridge
4. Linton
5. Meredith
6. Rokewood
7. Smythesdale
8. Teesdale

**TOWN**

9. Cape Clear
10. Napoleons
11. Scarsdale
12. Shelford

**SMALL TOWN**

13. Berringa
14. Corindhap
15. Enfield
16. Garibaldi
17. Grenville
18. Haddon
19. Maude
20. Murgheboluc
21. Ross Creek
22. Sutherlands Creek

**LOCALITY**

23. Anakie
24. Bamganie
25. Barunah Park
26. Batesford
27. Berrybank
28. Cambrian Hill
29. Cressy
30. Dereel
31. Durdidwarrah
32. Durham Lead
33. Gheringhap
34. Happy Valley
35. Hesse
36. Illabrook
37. Mannibadar
38. Mount Mercer
39. Morrisons
40. Newtown
41. Nintingbool
42. Piggoreet
43. Pitfield
44. Pittong
45. Rokewood Junction
46. Russells Bridge
47. She Oaks
48. Smythes Creek
49. Springdallah
50. Staffordshire Reef
51. Steiglitz
52. Stonehaven
53. Wallinduc
54. Werneth
55. Willowvale
56. Wingeel

# 1. BANNOCKBURN
## SUB REGIONAL CENTRE & FUTURE REGIONAL CENTRE

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

**INTRODUCTION:**

Bannockburn is a district town in Golden Plains Shire and a key regional centre within the Shire's network of townships across the south-east, serving residential, commercial and administrative functions. Bannockburn is located approximately 20 kilometres northwest of Geelong on relatively flat topography featuring open plains and remnant vegetation. The township is linked to Geelong via major access points to the Midland Highway via Geelong Road, Clyde Road and Kelly Road to the north and east. Bannockburn-Shelford Road extends west towards Teesdale and Shelford, whilst Harvey Road and Burnside Road extend to the south. Bannockburn also lies on the Geelong Ballarat Railway Line, however there is currently no passenger rail service, but is a key strategic freight rail line. Bannockburn has a relaxed and attractive town centre which primarily accommodates commercial, and community uses distributed across a grid pattern, around High Street, which reflects the typical character of a rural town. Residents are drawn to the township because it offers a quieter, more affordable country lifestyle close to the City of Geelong.

*Context map of Bannockburn*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The town of Bannockburn formed the centre of the former shire of the same name, proclaimed in 1864, and serviced the surrounding area as its major regional centre. The township stands on land originally held as the Wabdallah pastoral run. It was occupied by George Russell on behalf of the Clyde Company from 1837 to 1840 and later by James Bruce from 1840 until 1850. The township was gazetted following the formation of the Bannockburn Road Board in 1862 and the opening of the Leigh Road (later Bannockburn) Railway Station on the Geelong to Ballarat line in the same year. Its importance was secured by its position on the road and railway between Geelong and Ballarat during the gold rushes, though in its immediate surrounds pastoral and farming predominated.

The township was laid out in a conventional grid on either side of High Street. The large number of surviving commercial and public buildings, including the former Post Office, the Shire Hall, the Public Hall, the Bannockburn State School of 1874, and early churches and hotels, reflects Bannockburn's position as an important service centre.

Large estates were subdivided at the end of the nineteenth century and Soldier Settlement schemes following World Wars One and Two fuelled steady population growth in Bannockburn, in contrast to many surrounding townships.

The Bannockburn Railway Station is in the Victorian Heritage Register; it is an Italianate bluestone building situated at the north-east end of the historic town centre along High Street.  Much of the town centre is in a Heritage Overlay precinct, which encompasses timber single-storey dwellings converted to commercial uses on the south-east side, and two individual buildings on the opposite side, across a broad, tree-lined street. The individual buildings are the Art Deco Railway Hotel, and the fine but diminutive Edwardian Free Style Shire Hall. Between the two is a late twentieth-century shopping centre which is sympathetic to its historical context in its minimal front setback, single-storey scale, and parapeted facades. There are also potential heritage places identified for assessment, including a timber church, eight timber houses, and a former bakery site.



*Bannockburn Shire Hall*



*Bannockburn Railway Station*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Roads in Bannockburn consist of a mix of wide boulevards in the town centre and narrow residential streets in the surrounding areas. The roads are generally paved and 10 to 15 metres wide. Additionally, road reserves are wide and feature established native trees providing strong canopy cover and well maintained landscaped gardens. The entrance from Geelong Road on the Midland Highway is characterised by a wide road with very wide planted reserves and dry stone walls. Other wide roads/ boulevards with wide reserves include Milton Street and Burnside Road. While most streets are paved, they tend to be narrow and rough featuring uneven edges with no curbs. This adds to the rural feel of the township.

The rural landscape and the natural creek and river systems of the Bannockburn environs make an important contribution to the town's character. Bannockburn is located on the western plains, in close proximity to the Moorabool River valley. Bruce's Creek meanders through the west of the town. The generally flat environment of the town changes significantly as it approaches the embankment of the Creek valley. The Creek corridor contains remnant native and imported vegetation such as Cyprus trees, as well as other wind break tree species, and a diversity of flora and fauna. Areas of natural vegetation have been retained within the township including Wabdallah Reserve; the Arboretum; treed road reserves. Generally, the town is surrounded by relatively large scale farming enterprises and some vineyards. This rural-agricultural setting reinforces the character of the town and is a key attraction of the town. Views to rural farmlands are visible as you enter and exit the town as well as from key vantage points.

The commercial centre services the local community, as well as the surrounding townships of Batesford, Gheringhap, Shelford, Teesdale, Lethbridge and Inverleigh. Today a plethora of community and commercial facilities can be found in Bannockburn including a Golden Plains Shire office, a Catholic primary school, a P to 12 government school, a kindergarten, a police station, an ambulance or community emergency response team, a CFA firestation, a post office, a general store, a pub, various mixed retail and eateries, and several recreation reserves and playgrounds. Bannockburn Heart, a popular childrens hub, features a water playground that offers much

needed respite during hot summer months as there are no public pools in the Golden Plains Shire. The larger regional centres of Geelong and Ballarat provide a greater level of community facilities and commercial and retail activity, than the generally local convenience retail and local businesses of Bannockburn. Private land is also used for residential land uses dominated by low density dwellings dispersed throughout the township. The built fabric and general appearance of the town is diverse consisting of a mix of 20th century and more contemporary styles. Heritage buildings are concentrated in and around the town centre while newer developments can be found around the outskirts of the township particularly in the Bruce's Creek and Bannockburn South East growth areas. Here, higher density contemporary suburban style dwellings with few unique local characteristics can be found as well as rural residential developments in similar modern style. The township also features some unique art deco structures including the Bannockburn town hall. Large 10 to 20 metre front setbacks and five to 10 metre side setbacks creates a sense of space in the township. Low density one to two storey structures and heritage buildings contribute to this unique character. Future development should incorporate drystone walls and wind break tree species as these are predominant features of the town and would preserve its unique identity in the region.

Lastly, Bannockburn has access to reticulated water, electricity, sewerage and gas.
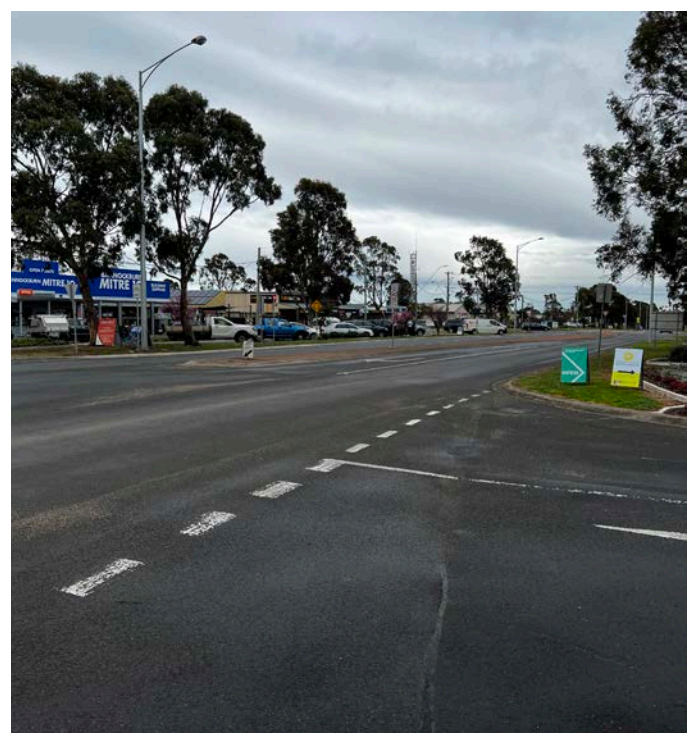


*Bannockburn town centre along High Street.*

*View of* Bannockburn landscape along Bruce Creek adjacent to eastern residential growth areas.



*Bannockburn P-12 College.*



*Country Plaza shopping centre.*



*'Bannockburn Heart' water playground.*

# 2. INVERLEIGH
## DISTRICT TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Inverleigh is a small town located approximately 30 kilometres west of Geelong and 15 kilometres south-west of Bannockburn. The district town is bisected by the Hamilton Highway, linking the township to nearby Murgheboluc in the east and Hesse in the west. The highway also directly connects Inverleigh to Geelong in the east.



*Context map of Inverleigh.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The early settlement of the locality is associated with the Derwent Company's runs of the 1830s and 1840s. The Company laid claim to 26,000 acres of land in the Portland Bay District. When it was dissolved in 1842 its properties were divided up by mutual consent and pastoral runs such as Native Hut No. 3 and Weatherboard Nos. 1 & 2 were formed within the Inverleigh area. The new owners continued to be important patrons of the town. The Inverleigh township was surveyed in 1854 and developed as a commercial and civic centre servicing surrounding pastoral properties. It was also an important stop on the colonial trade routes that linked Geelong to the Western District and the Woady Yaloak goldfields to the north.

At first, a gravel ford provided access across the Leigh River. After the completion of a permanent bridge over the Leigh River in 1853

and the formalization of the township grid, High Street became the primary route into and out of town. The bluestone abutments survive but the bridge has been superseded by a modern structure. An impressive avenue of Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress), established in the early twentieth century, signals the Hamilton Highway's eastern and western entrance.

Important public and commercial buildings were established during the 1860s, such as the township's two bluestone hotels, a post and money order service, a Mechanics Institute, four churches and three denominational schools. The division of large pastoral properties at the end of the nineteenth century gave way to intensive agricultural activities such as dairy and horticulture. A farmer's common was established to provide inhabitants of the town access to pasture for the grazing of cattle and horses. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line was completed in 1910, with local produce dispatched from the Inverleigh Railway Station.

The township of Inverleigh remains substantially intact and the surviving buildings and infrastructure from a range of periods retain a high degree of integrity. The town centre, along High Street with two treed reserves along it, forms a Heritage Overlay precinct. High Street retains a strong Victorian character, with a mix of single-storey timber dwellings and shops, as well as a few landmark masonry buildings, such as St Paul's Anglican Church and the two-storey bluestone Inverleigh Hotel.

Further out from the township, a number of early homesteads are in the Heritage Overlay, as well as a flour mill. Many nineteenth and early twentieth-century houses in the township, and Barwonleigh Homestead, have been identified as potential heritage places, along with the former railway station and railway houses.



*Bluestone Inverleigh Hotel.*



*St Paul's Anglican Church.*

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## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The town is characterised by the presence of a large number of significant heritage buildings within a linear configuration along the town's main street which is also the highway, known as a gateway location between Geelong and the Western District. Two storey bluestone buildings provide a strong entrance feature from the east and an established Cyprus Avenue of Honour provides a strong feature at the western entrance. The township is sited alongside the confluence of major rivers, the Barwon and the Leigh. These rivers have significant flood implications for the township, but also provide striking escarpments, and a welcoming natural environment characterised by its unique river setting. Inverleigh is recognised for its village charm, strengthened by its pleasant walking environment and established mixed native and imported tree species, strong presence of the natural environment and role as a meeting and stopping place in the region. Inverleigh is a satellite township of the regional centre of Geelong. Many residents commute to Geelong or beyond for work and higher education. Inverleigh town centre, focused along a traditional main street, provides a low scale retail, service and community role to its residents and surrounding rural community, and offers a small town lifestyle alternative to the nearby towns of Bannockburn and Geelong which support the town by providing higher order retail and community services. While surrounding land use is dominated by agricultural uses including extensive animal husbandry, crop raising, horticulture, livestock farming and shearing services, large clusters of low density residential growth has occurred predominantly to the north and west of the town centre on elevated land generally unencumbered by the flooding constraints experienced in and around the town centre. Approximately 1,203 people live in Inverleigh in predominantly low density dwellings.

Inverleigh is abundant with natural features including the environmentally sensitive floodplain of the Leigh and Barwon Rivers and associated river environs, the Inverleigh Flora Reserve, rural landscapes, remnant native vegetation, including old Manna gums and River Red gums. These create a distinctive natural environment that has been respected with the land use development and offers an informal recreation space to residents. There are also several sites of Aboriginal cultural significance which have been identified along the rivers and through the town.

Inverleigh is identified as a 'District commercial and retail centre' within the Golden Plains Shire. Existing community facilities include a Primary school, Kindergarten, Café, Bakery, Hotel, Public Hall, CFA shed with firefighting tanks/vehicles, Churches, Police Station, Petrol Station, Rural Farm Supplies, Bed and Breakfast, General Store/ Post Office, Tennis Courts, Recreation Reserve with a Football Oval, Netball Courts, Club Rooms, Bowling Green and Clubrooms, Golf Course and Cemetery. Surrounding land use is dominated by agricultural uses including extensive animal husbandry, crop raising, horticulture, livestock farming and shearing services. Future development in Inverleigh should feature bluestone building materials and space to plant large canopy street trees as these are predominant features of the town which would help preserve Inverleigh's unique character.

Inverleigh has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.



*Heritage dwelling adjacent to Lawson's Park.*



*Residential development.*

*Residential development.*


*Inverleigh Tennis Courts Playground.*


*Inverleigh Primary School.*


*Inverleigh town centre along Hamilton Highway.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Lethbridge is a small town located approximately 28 kilometres north-west of Geelong and in the south-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. Nestled atop of the Moorabool Valley and stretching across the Midland Highway to the Geelong Ballarat Railway line, Lethbridge offers an alternative to the suburban lifestyle. The town is serviced by the Midland Highway connecting the town to nearby Meredith to the north and Bannockburn to the south as well as regional centres Geelong and Ballarat. Roads in Lethbridge tend to be sealed, narrow and rough featuring uneven edges and no kerbs. Some unsealed residential streets can be found featuring a light orange gravel that blends with the landscape.



*Context map of Lethbridge.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Lethbridge was established on land which was part of the Wabdallah Run, part of the greater Golf Hill holdings of the Clyde Company managed by George Russell, and part of the Moranghurk Run, established by Peter Sharp and William Sharp. After the Second World War, the Government acquired over 11,700 acres of the Moranghurk run for Soldier Settlement, dividing it into 26 blocks. The remaining part of the run surrounds a 1840s Homestead which is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Lethbridge township comprises two formal

grids that are aligned to the Midland Highway, which was an early track between Geelong and the goldfields, and the Geelong-Ballarat Railway line, built 1858-62. The first part of the township was gazetted in 1854. The construction of the Railway Station dramatically reoriented the configuration of the original township and re-focused the commercial, residential and public activities. The prosperity experienced by the township as a commercial centre servicing surrounding pastoral properties and trade generated during the gold rush and the construction of the railway line has since diminished, but it contains many surviving buildings and infrastructure, some of which are protected as a Heritage Overlay precinct centred around the former railway station. The local bluestone is a defining characteristic of key buildings and railway infrastructure, though they are interspersed with timber Victorian houses.

The Old Lethbridge Quarry and a stone house have been identified as potential heritage places. The Lethbridge Cemetery, which has a large collection of fine nineteenth-century graves, has not been identified as a potential heritage place.



*Bluestone former railway station.*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, most of the community and commercial facilities in Lethbridge are located between the railway line and the Midland Highway. Here the general store, railway station, primary school, recreation reserve, public hall and St Mary's Catholic Church can be found. The churches, general store, primary school, sporting clubs and recreation reserve remain the focus of community life in Lethbridge. Lethbridge Airport, a non-commercial private airport, and multiple wineries can also be found surrounding the township. Possibly due to the local quarry, drystone walls in Lethbridge have a distinct character, built of angular split stones, instead of the typical rounded fieldstones.

As Lethbridge straddles the Midland Highway, the Highway divides the topographical features of the town. To the west of the Midland Highway are the open plains, to the east, the scenic and steep Moorabool Valley. West of the Highway and running north- south through the town is Bruce's Creek. Further west again, running parallel to Bruce's Creek and the Highway, is the Geelong-Ballarat railway line. The soil types change across the topography. East of Bruce's Creek is heavy basalt clay with rock. To the west of Bruce's Creek towards Woodman Road, is the lower topography, these are lighter sandier soils. West of Woodman's Road becomes increasingly basaltic. A lot of the regions Bluestone was sourced from a local quarry in Lethbridge. Future development could celebrate Lethbridge's bluestone geological heritage by utilising bluestone as a design element. Vegetation consists of generally native tree and grass species including eucalypts and native windbreaks but also feature some imported species such as pine. Surrounded by rural land means Lethbridge also supports several industries within its hinterland, including intensive animal farming such as poultry and egg production as well as viticulture and wine production. The area has a strong poultry presence with a number of established broiler farms which are typically a series of long narrow sheds in rows with a large setback.

Lethbridge has two key areas of open space, being the Lethbridge Lake and the Recreation Reserve. Lethbridge Lake is an informal recreation space with barbecue facilities and historical elements. The lake is a family fishing lake stock by Fishing Victoria and is approximately 20 minutes drive from the Ring Road. There is a fishing platform and various other places where visitors can fish from. Trails have been developed around the lake and link to other community facilities including toilets which are available on site. The Recreation Reserve has two ovals with a significant Sporting Centre situated between and overlooking the two ovals. The Reserve also includes a tennis court. A new playground and skate facility are located close to the recreation reserve. The primary school is currently located next to the Recreation Reserve, having been relocated from the old bluestone structure located on the Midland Highway.

Home to approximately 1013 people, Lethbridge residents live in predominantly low-density dwellings concentrated around the main town centre in a large cluster. These properties are generally set back from the street and lined by vegetation along property boundaries. Recent low-density subdivisions have established both on the eastern side of the Midland Highway, in proximity to the Moorabool Valley and the eastern side of the Midland Highway on the northern side of the township. Additionally, a growth area has been identified in the west. Housing stock consists of modest brick veneer and weatherboard structures within the town centre and brick, and ranch style housing in the surrounding low density residential areas.

Lethbridge has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.
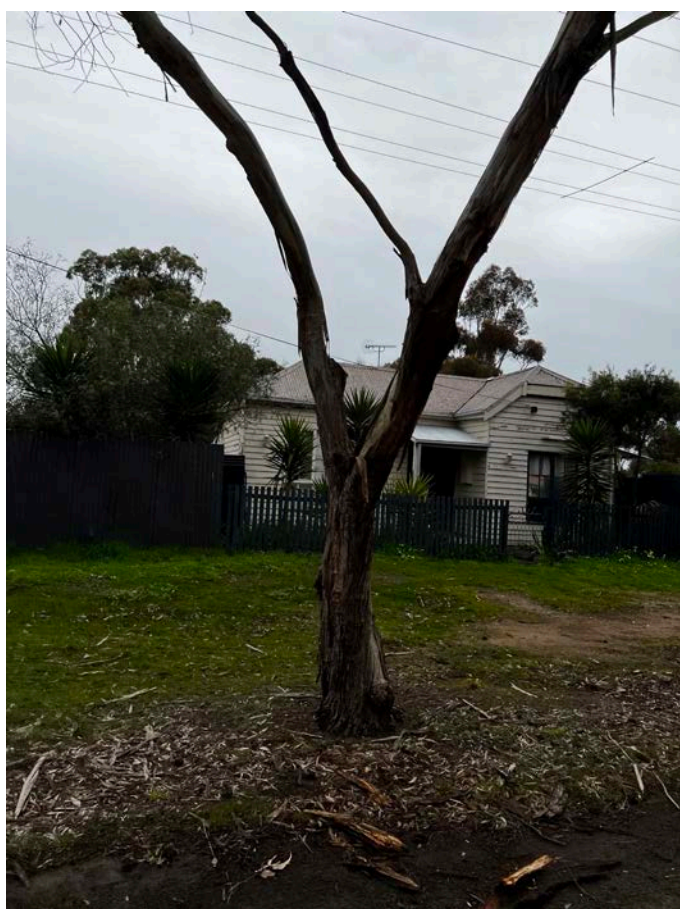


*'Lethbridge' bluestone arch*

*Drystone walls.*


*Lethbridge Skate Park.*


*Lethbridge CFA Shed.*


*Weatherboard residential development.*

# 4. LINTON
## DISTRICT TOWN



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## INTRODUCTION:

Linton is a historic small town established on the Springdallah Creek located approximately 35 kilometres west of Ballarat near the north-west municipal border between the Golden Plains and Pyrenees Shires. The township is serviced by the Glenelg Highway, linking Linton to nearby Scarsdale to the east and Pittong to the west as well as the regional city of Ballarat to the north-east.



*Context map of Linton.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

This locality was named after Joseph and Mary Linton, pastoralist pioneers from Scotland who settled first in the Woady Yaloak area and from about 1840 on what became Linton Park. Gold was discovered on Fiery Creek, in the vicinity of today's Linton Cemetery in 1856 and a small settlement of diggers was soon established there. This shifted to Surface Hill, the present site of the township which was surveyed for the

Crown by 1861. The district's many gold fields thrived during the late 1850s and early 1860s.

Linton developed with the usual mix of public, commercial and private buildings and has many layers of development along its main street, which is protected in a Heritage Overlay precinct. The precinct contains timber Victorian and Edwardian dwellings, as well as primarily single-storey timber and masonry shops and public buildings. Landmarks in the precinct include the

two-storey brick and stone Victorian shops at 74 Sussex Street, and beside it the 1939 cream-brick former Grenville Shire Offices.  A few blocks away to the west is the fine brick St Peter's Catholic Church and Presbytery, which face each other on Cumberland Street.

Linton Cemetery, located in the hills to the north of the township, and Linton Park Homestead to the south (with a 1953 house), are also in the Heritage Overlay, with a large number of former mining sites in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Linton is a picturesque town surrounded by undulating topography featuring dense native species including wattle and stringybark eucalyptus trees. Large and dense pine plantations can also be found surrounding the township. The town is aligned north-east to south-west and is divided by Sussex Street (Glenelg Highway), which is wider than the other streets. The streets are laid out in a regular grid generally to the north-west of Sussex Street and another smaller regular grid aligned north-south to the east. Linton has a unique town centre streetscape character including a bushy entrance to the town, a wide avenue with central median, quality street trees, historic shopfronts and sloped town centre. Most other streets in Linton are sealed but tend to be rough and narrow and feature open storm drains adding to the small-town country feel of the township.

Linton provides low density living, retail, service and community infrastructure to residents and the surrounding rural community. The Linton township consists of a handful of community facilities distributed linearly along the Glenelg Highway. The Linton Public Library is of particular social significance as a very rare surviving public building. The former Golden Plains Shire's Council's Customer Service office is used as a community facility and occasionally for Council meetings. Small placemaking areas and public art shows are indicative of a strong, proud and involved local community. Home to 468 people, homes in Linton are primarily low-density dwellings in a mix of 20th century architectural styles including some Victorian era structures distributed in a large cluster adjacent to Sussex Street. Linton has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.
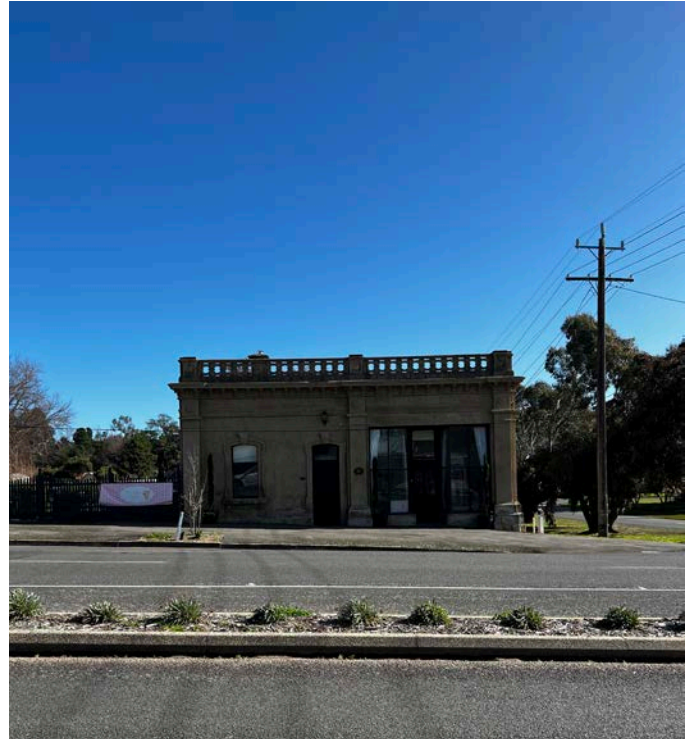


*Heritage structure on Glenelg Highway.*
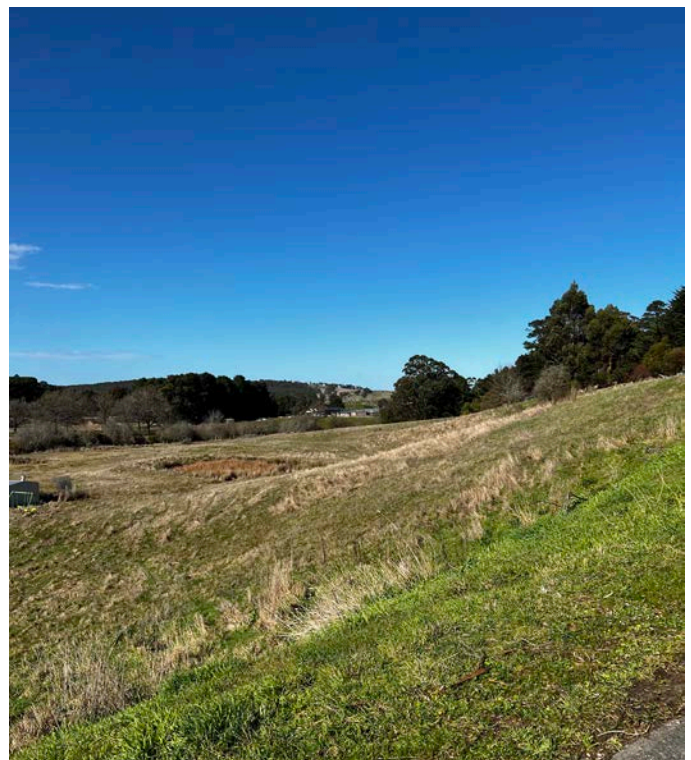


*View of Linton landscape behind town centre on Glenelg Highway.*

*Linton town centre and streetscape along Glenelg Highway.*


*Vacant St Peter's Presbytery adjacent to St Peter's Catholic Church*


*Residential development.*


*St Peter's Catholic Church*

# 5. MEREDITH
## DISTRICT TOWN

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## INTRODUCTION:

Meredith is a small town located approximately 45 kilometres north-west of Geelong and 45 kilometres south-east of Ballarat in the central region of the Golden Plains Shire. Meredith provides a country lifestyle within commuter distance of Geelong, Ballarat and to some extent Melbourne. The town is serviced by the Midland Highway, connecting Meredith to nearby Elaine to the north and Lethbridge to the south as well as regional centres Geelong and Ballarat. Streets in the township are generally sealed but rough and tend to feature open storm drains that line the road, adding to the country town feel of the area. Main street, on the other hand, is smooth, wide and features wide verges, kerbs and imported tree species, a unique characteristic in the region.
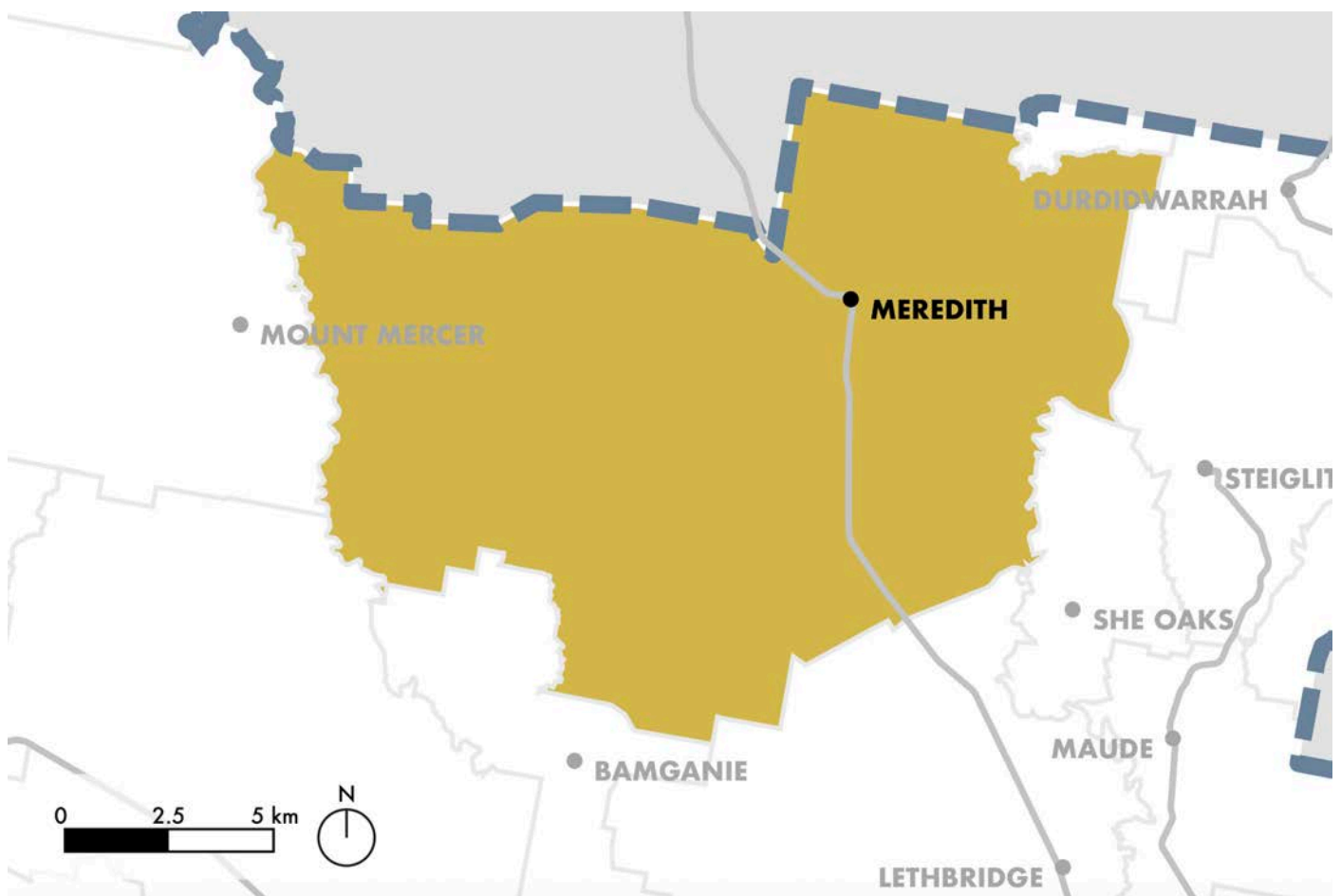
*Context map of Meredith.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The pastoral run at Meredith was taken up by Mr Rice in 1849. In 1853 Mr Watson ran the Golden Fleece Hotel at Dickman's Bridge, by which time it had become a significant stop for travellers on the track between Geelong and the Buninyong goldfields. A cobbled road survives to the east of the township, protected in the Heritage Overlay and Victorian Heritage Inventory.

Meredith was surveyed in 1851/2, following the discovery of gold in the districts surrounding the

township. It became an important service centre for travellers between the Ballarat goldfields and the port of Geelong. The former Meredith Police Paddock, which was the region base for the Mounted Police Troup, responsible for escorting gold found within the nearby Steiglitz goldfields, was established adjacent to the track. Meredith developed during the gold-rush years as a civic and commercial centre servicing mining communities as well as surrounding pastoral properties. Its prominence was reinforced by the construction of the Meredith Railway Station along the Ballarat to Geelong Railway line in 1862.

A large number of stores, many of which survive, at least five hotels, of which two survive, the former Meredith Hospital, the Shire Offices, the Meredith State School and two churches survive from this period. During the post-gold rush years, the township continued to prosper as the centre of a farming district that became important for its production of some of Victoria's finest Merino wool. A number of significant buildings were constructed in the early twentieth century, including the Meredith Mechanics Institute now the Meredith Memorial Hall, the Anglican Church of the Epiphany and the former Presbyterian Church, now the Uniting Church. Residential development is dispersed within the township grid and is characterised by its cottage form and scale, traditional gardens, with limited subdivision of the original allotments. Much of the centre of the township along Staughton Street forms a Heritage Overlay precinct, with key public buildings on cross-streets Wallace and McLeod streets. Most dwellings and public buildings are timber, with exceptions being Victorian PWD designs, such as the former post office and schoolhouse. There are some further houses, the McLeod Street Bridge, and the Cypress avenue along Midland Highway have been earmarked for future heritage assessment.



*Epiphany Anglican Church.*



*St Andrews Uniting Church.*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Meredith is situated on a plateau which is generally flat falling away to the east and north as it drops toward Coolebarghurk Creek. The land is largely cleared featuring remnant native vegetation as well as some areas of dense native vegetation to the east in the Coolebarghurk Streamside Reserve and Moreep Bushland Reserve as well as in the west in the Bamganie State Forest. These areas act as both environmental assets as well as informal recreation spaces. Imported tree species can be found lining Staughton Street. The Coolebarghurk Creek, which borders the main town centre, and avenues of honour at both the north and south entrances to the town are also both notable landscape features of Meredith. Residents are passionate about preserving their local environment. A tree guard program was undertaken by the local community more than 20 years ago, whereby local families created their own personalised tree guards for road reserves throughout the town. The tree-guards are welded metal and have representations of the family history, eg. something that might represent their trade. This is a unique character feature of the town. The Meredith landscape is also dominated by agricultural properties with rich pastoral histories and strong ties to the discovery of gold in the adjoining districts. Here, the famous Meredith Dairy can be found, producing goats cheese sold throughout the country.

There are a number of formal and informal public open spaces located in the Meredith Town Centre all within easy walking and cycling distance of each other and Staughton Street. An avenue of old cyprus trees provides a strong entrance feature to the town from the south. A linear park has been established along the Coolebarghurk Creek, at the eastern end of Russell Street, and is known as the 'Path of the Ibis'. The Recreation Reserve and Pioneer Park on Wilson Street provide a more formal open space area with an oval, tennis courts, playground and skate park all within close proximity. Meredith Golf Club offers another more formal recreation space for residents and visitors alike.

The town centre forms a strong network grid pattern set out in a predominantly east-west alignment with residential development dispersed throughout the grid. The blocks are approximately 100x200 metres in size. The bulk of commercial/ community development and heritage sites is located within the T shape junction of the main streets.

The Meredith Township has a robust and diverse range of commercial and community facilities including a general store/post office, café, service station, two hotels, nursery, golf course and motorcross club. The town also has a primary school and "Community House' offering childcare and training courses, as well as kitchen and computer lab facilities. A Police Station and Country Fire Station are also located in Meredith servicing not only the town but the surrounding farming district as well. The majority of commercial activity within the town is focussed around the corner of Staughton Street and the Midland Highway where the general store, café, real-estate agent and one of the two hotels are located. On the corner is the art piece known as Aunty Meredith's couch, a reference to the music festival known as Aunty Meredith, reflecting the relaxed atmosphere of the Meredith Music Festival. This t-shape junction also represents the remaining historic town centre featuring deep bluestone drains, a strong character element accented with established trees in the road reserve. The public hall is situated away from the main commercial area and is well utilised by many local clubs and associations which reflects the strong community spirit of the town and surrounding district.

Home to an estimated 451 people, Meredith residents live in mostly low density detached structures, many of which are traditional weatherboard or modest single storey brick dwellings featuring unique verandah design features. Some newer brick veneer style dwellings can be found around the town centre as well as some kit homes. A small amount of residential growth can be found to the west, but development is not extensive. The community of Meredith is much larger than the township population itself with many farmers of the surrounding area associating their central hub as Meredith. The use of wide streets and timber structures creates a light and open quality that should be retained in future developments.

Meredith has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.

*Meredith town centre along Staughton Street.*


*Weatherboard residential development.*


*Meredith primary school.*


*Modern residential development west of the township*

# 6. ROKEWOOD
## DISTRICT TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Rokewood is a small town located approximately 43 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the central region of the Golden Plains Shire at the intersection of the Rokewood-Skipton, Rokewood-Shelford and Colac-Ballarat Roads. These roads link the township to Corindhap and Dereel to the north, Shelford to the south-east and Pitfield to the north-west. Additionally, Colac-Ballarat Road also establishes a direct link to Ballarat in the north.



*Context map of Rokewood.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

This district was first settled with large pastoral runs in the late 1830s and early 1840s, including 'Commeralghip', 'Dereel', 'Glenfine', 'Wurrook', and 'Kuruc-a-ruc', some of which survive and are in the Heritage Overlay.

There are records of gold mining taking place in the Rokewood area from 1852. In 1856, successful mining inspired a huge influx of diggers to what was known as the "Rokewood Rush". A second gold discovery and subsequent increase in population was experienced in the late 1880s. There are many former mining sites on the Victorian Heritage Inventory, roughly following the line of the Kuruc A Ruc Creek just north and south of the township.

Rokewood was gazetted as a township in 1852. The township began as a crossing place for

the Kuruc-A-Ruc Creek but also became the main town which supported Dereel, Rokewood Junction and Corindhap in the gold mining era. With the advent of the Leigh Shire in 1864, Rokewood became one of the Shire's two administrative centres, the other located in the Warrambine Creek Hall. A railway connection was made in 1911 when lines were joined from Cressy to Scarsdale passing through Rokewood. The line continued until 1953.

The subdivision of pastoral properties for the WW2 Soldier Settlement Scheme saw another significant increase in population and a boost to all sorts of social aspects of the town's development during the 1950s and 1960s. The township is visually dominated by the 1866 bluestone Presbyterian Church and its fine steeple. The small commercial and civic centre is largely intact, set on either side of a wide central reserve, and protected in a Heritage Overlay precinct. Unlike the church, the shops and houses are of timber. Several houses, the post-war RSL Hall and the Rokewood Junction Memorial Avenue have been identified as potential heritage places.



*Bluestone Presbyterian Church (1866) and surrounding residential development.*



*Rokewood Memorial Hall.*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The Shire has a strong agricultural sector with a history of wool, sheep, and grain production, which is reflected in Rokewood. The Rokewood landscape is largely flat and cleared land primarily used for agriculture and features some remnant vegetation. Dense vegetation can be found lining the eastern and western entrances to the town, enveloping travellers as the enter the township. Other notable landscape features include the Kuruc A Ruc Creek which passes through the township as well as Rokewood Reservoir and Rokewood Lagoon which are considered hidden treasures by the local community and utilised as natural aquatic leisure facilities.

As with many small towns in the Golden Plains Shire, Rokewood evolved in the gold rush era as the main crossing place for the Kuruc-A-Ruc Creek. With the advent of the Leigh Shire in 1864, Rokewood became one of the Shire's two administrative centres.

The Rokewood township is based on a traditional grid pattern of development. Rokewood has developed in a relatively compact form with community facilities located to the north of Ferrars Road between McMillan and Gibb Street. Community and commercial facilities in Rokewood include Rokewood Primary School,

Rokewood Kindergarten, Hesse Community Health (Rokewood), a police station, a public hall, a recreation reserve including a football oval, tennis courts & playground, Elder Park, a CFA shed, churches, Rokewood Cemetery, Rokewood Reservoir, Rokewood Golf Course, hotel, travelling Geelong library and local shops. Rokewood has been identified as a key town providing services and facilities within a cluster of smaller towns. Home to approximately 200 people, Rokewood's housing consists of largely low-density dwellings in a mix of 20th century architectural styles concentrated around the town centre. Rokewood has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.



*Residential development.*



*Rokewood town centre along Rokewood-Skipton Road.*



*Residential development.*

# 7. SMYTHESDALE
## DISTRICT TOWN

### INTRODUCTION:

Smythesdale is an urban settlement located 13 kilometres south-west of Ballarat on the Glenelg Highway. Smythesdale's has a distinct rural character and the foundations of a thriving township while its proximity to Ballarat and its rural living hinterland provides it with opportunities for an independent rural town setting. The Glenelg Highway is a major transport route linking Smythesdale to nearby Smythes Creek to the north-east and Scarsdale to the south as well as regional centre Ballarat.
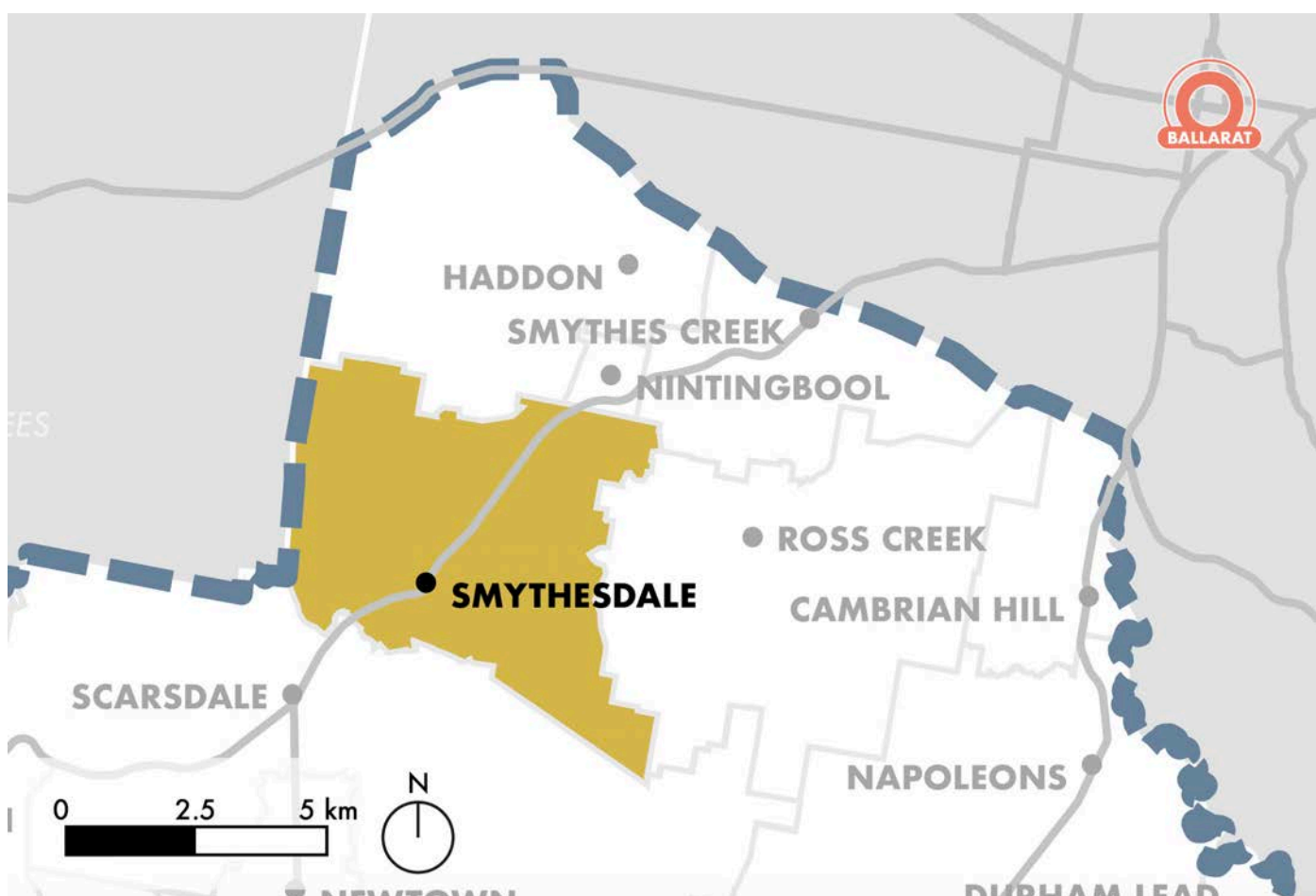
*Context map of Smythesdale*

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Smythesdale is named after Captain John James Barlow Smythe, an early district pastoralist. In 1838, Smythe took up a lease of 10,440 acres in Woady Yaloak on Smythe's Creek, 8 miles south of Ballarat. He called his run 'Nentingbull' (also known as Nintingbool).

Although Smythesdale had an early history of pastoral settlement, it is principally known as an old mining district. The first gold found in Smythesdale, then known as 'Smythe's Creek,' was discovered in 1852. A diggers' township quickly developed, which straggled along both banks of the creek from a few kilometres north of Nintingbool to well south of present-day Smythesdale township. An Anglican school was opened in 1856.

By 1859, the name of 'Smythesdale' had replaced that of 'Smythe's Creek' on official documents. It became the administrative centre of the Borough of Smythesdale, founded in 1861. The heyday of the town was in the 1860s and 1870s, and it had a mechanics' institute, free library, a foundry, a sawmill, a brewery and numerous hotels. In 1883 Smythesdale was connected by railway to Ballarat.

The Chinese were also actively involved in gold mining in the region, reworking the mullock heaps and tailings and by 1860 there was approximately 500 Chinese miners in the immediate area.

Many of the early public buildings survive, with a pretentious scale at odds with its current small population and are in a Heritage Overlay precinct. Many of the public buildings are constructed of bluestone or brick masonry. Dwellings in the precinct are mainly timber and date from the Victorian, Edwardian and interwar eras, with the exception a two-storey bichromatic brick Victorian house at the southern end (17 Brooke Street). The brick Smythesdale State School, founded 1871 and expanded in 1874 and 1911, is just west of the precinct.

There are many former mining sites in the Victorian Heritage Inventory as well as the Victorian Heritage Register. Stone Mile-Posts on Glenelg Highway of the 1870s and the 1860 Court House are also in the Register.

Two cottages on Clyde Street, a railway culvert and a brick spoon drain have been identified as potential heritage places.



*Court House Hotel.*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Smythesdale's character is influenced by well preserved and notable historic buildings concentrated in and around the town centre. The town contains a significant intact heritage precinct with key buildings dating back to the gold rush era. Notable surviving historic buildings in the Police Camp precinct also include the Post Office and Court House, brick stables and bluestone lock up, Court House Hotel, the Masonic Hall, the Mechanics' Institute, one bank, several cottage clusters. This area of the township provides a strong contextual precinct to the historic gold era which laid the foundations of the township today. The Woady Yaloak Historic Society is based at the Smythesdale Well within the Police Camp precinct. The Society has an active membership who run the Smythesdale Market every third Saturday of the month at the Police Camp Precinct. The Precinct is also the venue for the Smythesdale Arts and Music Fiesta as well as other community gathering events. The impact of the Chinese community on the town's character is also commemorated by a wooden sculpture depicting an Officer arresting a Chinese miner Ah Woa, for not having a valid mining ticket, the wooden sculpture also includes the miner's wife and child.

Smythesdale is an undulating township which is bound by low forested hills on the east and west sides of the town, providing an attractive natural setting. The topography has shaped the historical development of the town with developed land and cleared areas only residing on the relatively flat land. Smythesdale is surrounded with an abundance of natural and passive open spaces including the Smythesdale/ Ngarinyook State Forest, Woady Yaloak River and floodplain, Smythesdale Streamside Reserve, Smythesdale Recreation Reserve, Smythesdale Gardens, Brewery Dam, Argyle Dam, Surface Hill Historic Reserve, Watson's Hill Bushland Reserve and a Heritage listed Avenue of Honour consisting of 122 elm trees lining the Glenelg Highway. The Smythesdale Gardens were first established in the early 1860's and has plantings of Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) Quercus robur(English Oak); Cedrus deodara (Deodar Cedar); Pinus canariensis (Canary Island Pine); Pinus radiata (Monterey Pine); Pinus nigra (Austrian Pine); Pinus halapensis (Aleppo Pine, also known as the 'Lone' Pine); Eucalyptus globulus (Tasmanian Bluegum); Populus alba (Silver Poplar). The Gardens provide a range

of camping facilities for overnight camping as well as an ornamental wooden ship, referred to by local children as the 'Ship Playground".

Open spaces in Smythesdale offer access to the natural environment and provide unique experiences from horse riding; picnicking; bushwalking, cycling and other outdoor experiences. The Woady Yaloak Creek and adjacent Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail are especially valuable landscape assets as they form a green corridor that spans the length of the township from Whites Road to the Equestrian centre in the south.

Smythesdale is situated along a key transport corridor linking Ballarat to the south-west coast. The township functions as a key settlement providing retail and services to the surrounding network of rural hinterland communities. The town layout features a curved main street and is somewhat "lop sided" in its grid pattern layout with most development concentrated to the east of the Glenelg Highway. However, there are many vacant allotments and several community facilities that can be found to the west of the highway as well. Streets are generally sealed and feature wide verges. Back streets, however, tend to be narrower and, while also sealed, have rough surfaces contributing to the small-town country feel of Smythesdale. Smythesdale currently contains several community and commercial facilities including a primary school, the Smythesdale Well (a business and community hub that includes a General Practitioner (GP) service, pharmacy, council services and meeting rooms), a general store, an equestrian centre, the Police Camp Historic Precinct/ Village Green, the Smythesdale Gardens and camp grounds, CFA, police station, a football oval with pavilion, a skate park, tennis courts, the Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail. There is a local supermarket and a general store which provide a variety of goods and services including groceries and take away food including pizza, a post-office, dry-cleaning agency, pharmacy depot, and video and DVD outlet. Home to approximately 866 people, housing stock in Smythesdale consists of mainly low-density dwellings concentrated around the town centre but also distributed in clusters adjacent to the Glenelg Highway. Architectural styles range from the Victorian era to 20th century brick veneer to contemporary developments which tend to be distributed behind the more historic developments in town. Smythesdale does not have access to

reticulated gas but does have access to reticulated water, electricity and sewerage contributing to its higher density development.
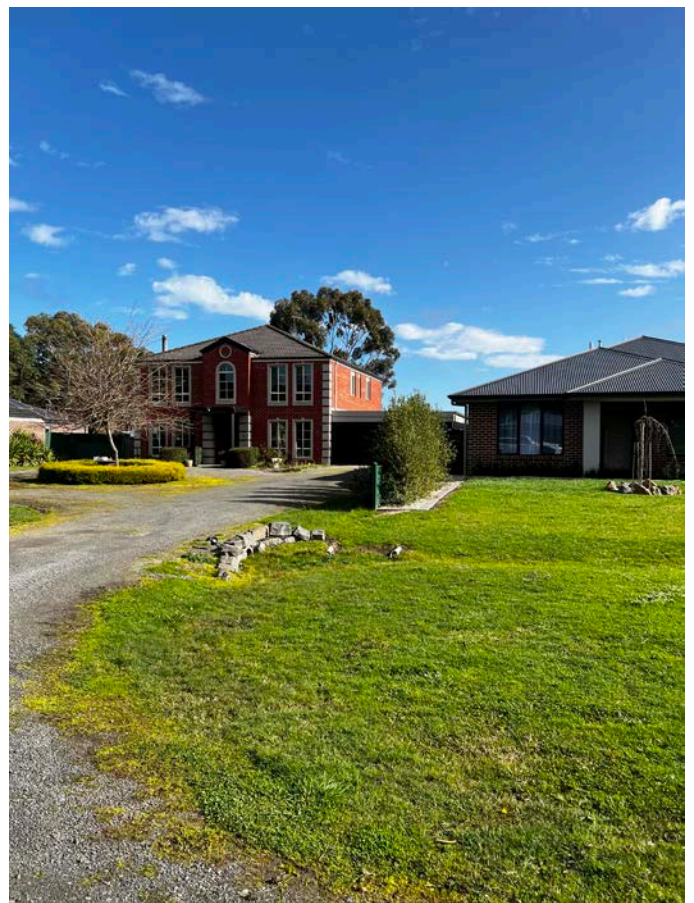


*Masonic Hall.*
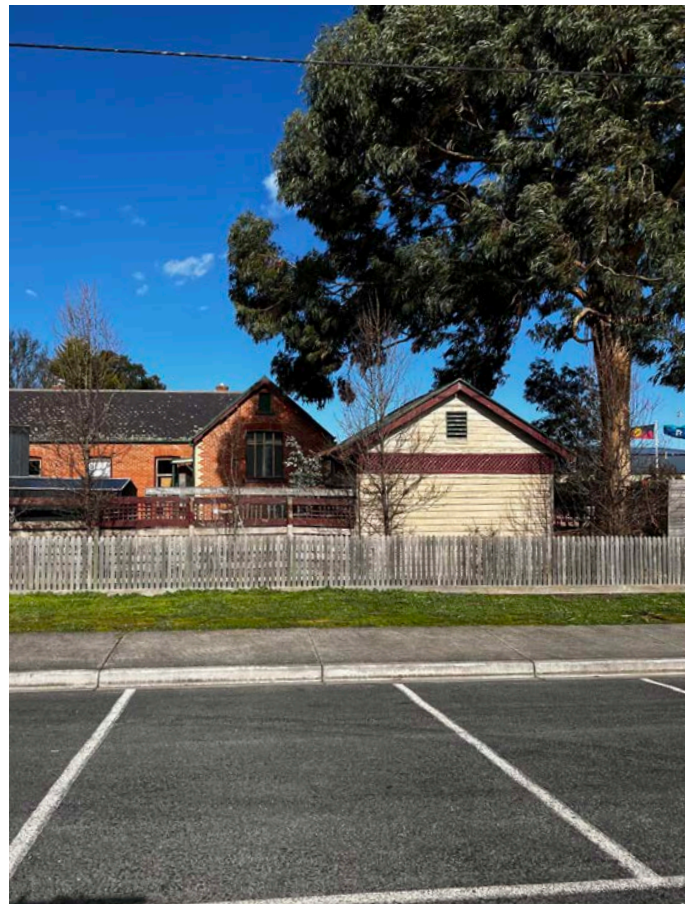


*Woady Yaloak Primary School.*



*View of Smythesdale streetscape along*



*Contemporary residential development.*

# 8. TEESDALE
## DISTRICT TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Teesdale is a small town located 30 kilometres north-west of Geelong in the south-east region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Bannockburn-Shelford Road, a non-urban arterial road connecting the town to Bannockburn in the east and Shelford in the west. The road also connects to the Midland Highway through Bannockburn, linking the township to both Geelong and Ballarat. Streets are oriented in a grid pattern, generally narrow, sealed and unsealed featuring rough surfaces and no kerbs. Bannockburn-Shelford Road, which passes through the township, features a wide verge and footpath on one side of the road and large street trees.



*Context map of Teesdale.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Teesdale area was originally part of pastoral run Native Creek No. 2, first held in 1837 by the Learmount Brothers. In 1857 a bluestone house was built on the run, now known as Woolbrook Homestead. It is in the Heritage Overlay.

In 1852 Teesdale township was surveyed on the Shelford-Bannockburn Road where it crosses Native Hut Creek. Settlement followed, as gold miners left mining and opted for steadier occupations. A Presbyterian church and school were built in 1858. Within one or two decades

there were also Methodist and Catholic churches, a mechanics' institute (1874-1969). The combined store/hotel/post office (1852) had diversified into separate businesses by the 1860s. Leigh Shire council (1864) had offices for its secretary and engineer at Teesdale until 1916, although the shire hall was at the more centrally positioned Warrambine, between Shelford and Rokewood.

Teesdale's original water supply was extracted from Native Hut Creek, but by the 1870s the water was considered too salty for human consumption and provisions were made to establish a permanent and more reliable water source for the emerging township. Earth works were undertaken to construct the reservoir at the site now known as "Chinaman's Lagoon" and

by 1883 tenders were called for the fabrication and laying of pipes and the construction of a tunnel. The Lagoon was named after the Chinese contractor who undertook works associated with the reservoir.

A relatively small number of early buildings survive in the township, including Gowan Brae – an 1865 bluestone cottage, the 1878 State School, the bluestone Presbyterian Church of 1858, the 1949 War Memorial, and the Water Reserve ("Chinamans Lagoon"), and are in the Heritage Overlay. The cemetery and RSL Club have been identified as potential heritage places.
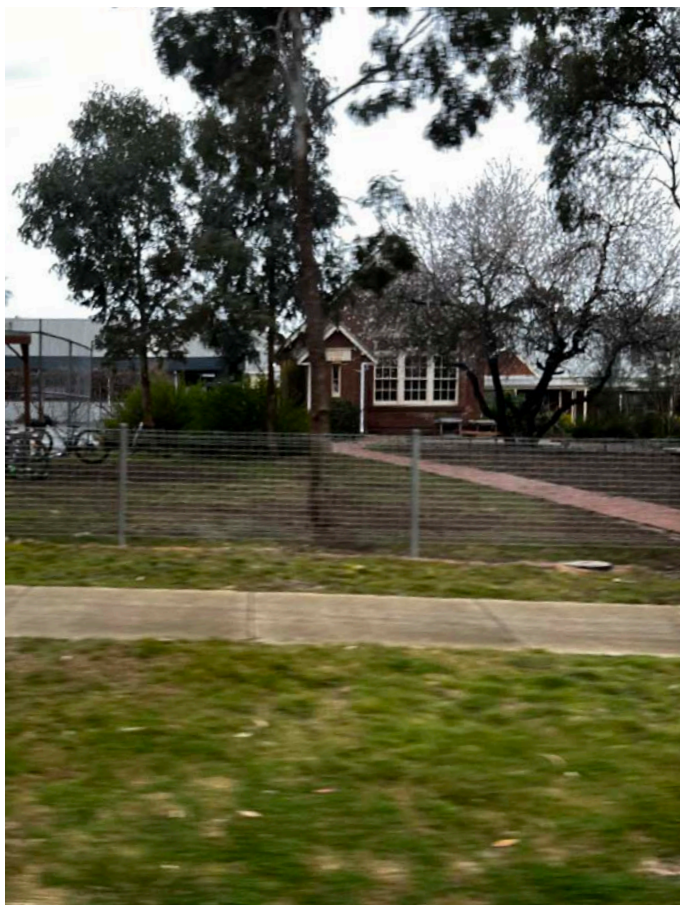


*1878 State School building at Teesdale Primary School.*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Teesdale currently contains limited commercial infrastructure, meaning the population is reliant on nearby Bannockburn and Geelong for access to several higher-order services. Existing commercial infrastructure consists of a medical centre, a general store, pharmacy, plant nursery, equestrian centre, a café and other miscellaneous commercial operators. Similarly, the township has limited access to community facilities. Currently, the township has a primary school, pre-school, community hall, Presbyterian Church, public park (Turtle Bend Park) including play equipment and a football oval with pavilion (at Don Wallace Reserve). The Turtle Bend Pavillion, proposed in 2007 and developed over five years through close collaboration between several artists, countless community groups, dozens of volunteers and hundreds of Teesdale residents, is a popular community destination. Taking its inspiration from a local inhabitant of Native Hut Creek, the eastern long-necked turtle, the designs laid the foundation for the creation of a physical heart for the community. The result is a unique covered stage within a natural amphitheatre, an iconic landmark and a source of identity and pride for the residents.

Though the majority of Teesdale is quite flat, there are significant undulating areas that run through the centre of the town in a north-south direction, including along Native Hut Creek. Teesdale is dominated by agricultural land uses but also contains many examples of notable native and imported vegetation, with a particular strong presence of Plains Grassy Woodlands and pine tree species. Victoria's grassy woodlands originally extended across huge areas of the State but have become exceedingly rare today. Plains Grassy Woodlands can be described as an open, grassy eucalypt woodland found in low rainfall areas on fertile soils on both flats and gently undulating plains at low elevations.

Native Hut Creek is another notable landscape feature of Teesdale. The creek has been an integral part of Teesdale's identity for tens of thousands of years before the arrival of European Settlers to Golden Plains Shire. The Tolloora People of the Wathaurung Tribe used the watercourse for fishing, plant gathering, social ceremonies and camping. After European Settlement, it became the town's water supply, until an increase in usage caused the water to become saline and alternative sources were acquired, including Chinaman's Lagoon. Today, the Creek remains a highly valued environmental feature of Teesdale, not only attributing to the amenity and character of Teesdale but serves as a corridor for Creekline Grassy Woodland vegetation and native fauna species. The landscape is also extremely susceptible to bushfire, exacerbated by the one-hectare subdivisions which feature dense vegetation along property boundaries.

Home to approximately 1720 people, Teesdale consists of primarily rural residential housing distributed in a large cluster centred around Bannockburn-Shelford Road. Houses near the centre feature largely weatherboard construction in a variety of 20th century architectural styles. Conversely, houses at the periphery of the townships are generally brick veneer and weatherboard low density residential developments. Teesdale has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.



*Teesdale Family Medical Centre.*



*Teesdale General Store.*

35

*Turtle Bend Park.*



*Turtle Bend Park playground.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Cape Clear is a small town located 33 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire at the junction of a three-way intersection at the Scarsdale-Pitfield Road, Rokewood Road and Ryan's Road. Scarsdale- Pitfield Road, a non-urban arterial road, links Cape Clear to nearby Springdallah to the north and Pitfield to the south.
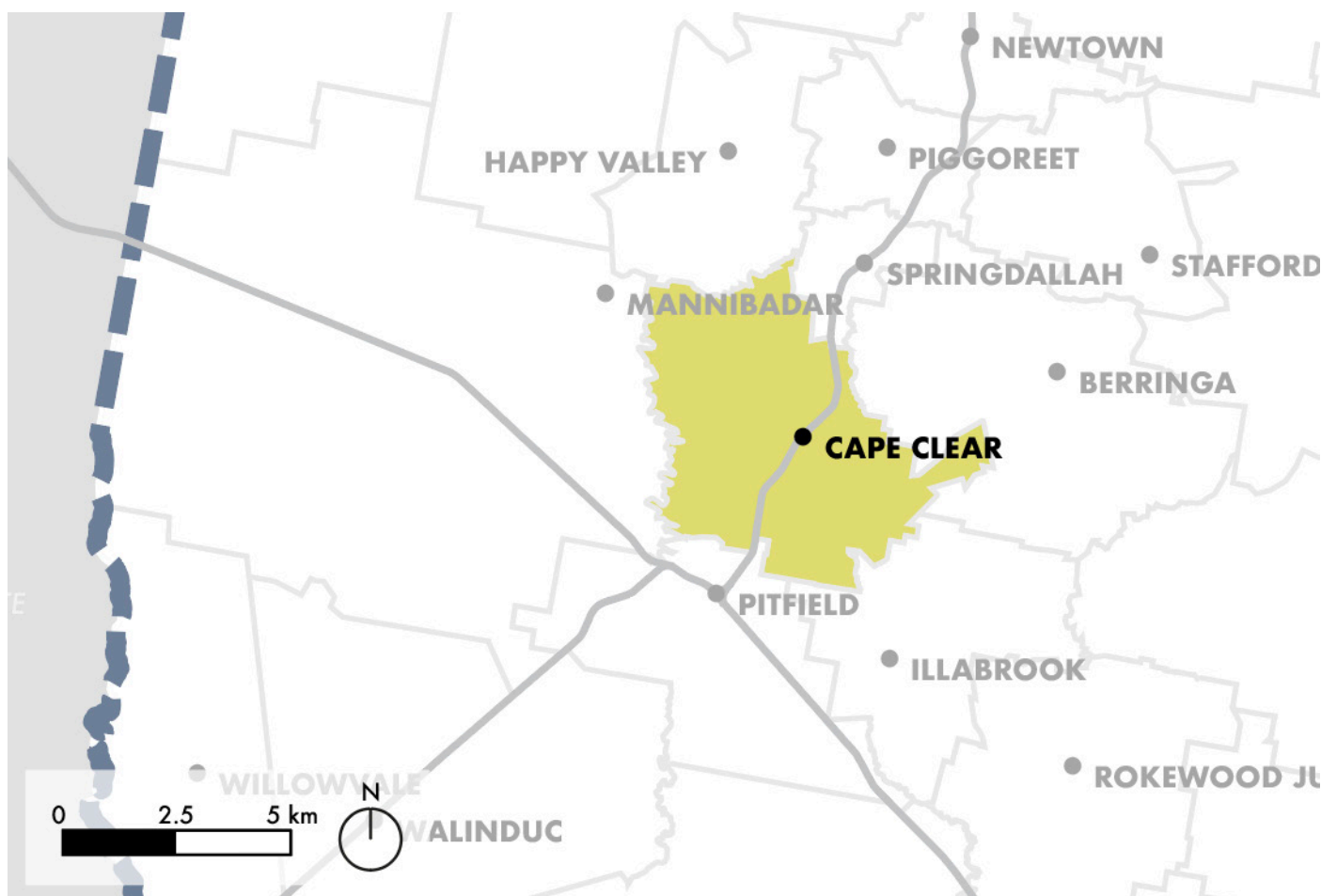


*Context map of Cape Clear.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Cape Clear was named by two of the early miners, Reardon and Henry Boardman who were from Cape Clear in Ireland. The town continued to grow as the discovery of rich gold at "Grand Trunk" opened up mining as far as the Pitfield Planes. A number of these mining sites are now protected in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, including the Golden Bel Extended Co. mine, located in the centre of the former township, at the intersection of Scarsdale-Pitfield and Rokewood-Skipton roads. Cast-iron mileposts were installed at this intersection in 1871 and are protected in the Victorian Heritage Register.

At one time Cape Clear had several hotels and a street of shops including a bakery, blacksmiths shop, and general store. Today, it retains a number of community and civic buildings, such as the c1920s Post Office and the handsome 1935 Cape Clear Hotel, which stand near each other at the main crossroads. They are not yet

protected. Further out of town, the Cape Clear Cemetery was gazetted in 1868, originally to serve the town of Pitfield. It is in the Heritage Overlay.



*Cape Clear Hotel (1935) and adjacent Cape Clear lighthouse monument.*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, streets are generally sealed with no kerbs and narrow adding to the rural feel of the township. Home to approximately 128 people, the area is characterised by small communities in a rural living context with close connections to the surrounding farming sector land use activities. Surrounding agricultural land is predominantly used for grazing purposes while housing stock is predominantly made up of single dwellings in a low density setting in a mix of 20th century architectural styles.

The Cape Clear landscape is primarily flat wide-open and unencumbered land featuring some remnant native vegetation. Imported species can be found throughout Cape Clear particularly in private gardens and some community gardens including the small horse trough used as a planter near the Cape Clear Hotel. Various windbreaker tree species are also a common sight in Cape Clear. Though lacking a traditionally defined town centre, Cape Clear does have access to several community facilities including a primary school, CFA fire station, post office, pub, general store and playground.

Cape Clear is located approximately 100 kilometres from the nearest coast despite its name suggesting it is a waterfront town There are many folktales that describe how the town got its name but most centre around the Irish settlers that were in the region during the gold rush period. One story told by Dennis Burns, a part time barkeeper at the Cape Clear Hotel, claims that an Irishman, who's horse cart lost a wheel, put up a sign that was supposed to say 'Keep Clear' but was spelt 'Cape Clear' which was eventually adopted as the name of the town. Dennis along with a group of locals decided to work with the Cape Clear name and build a 13-metre-tall lighthouse with a working light. Cape Clear has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas.

*Cape Clear streetscape and red horse trough along Scarsdale-Pitfield Road.*



*Cape Clear playground located adjacent to Scarsdale-Pitfield Road.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Napoleons is a small town located approximately 15 kilometres south of Ballarat in the northern region of the Golden Plains Shire. Napoleons offers a country lifestyle and environment close to services and facilities of the regional City of Ballarat. Napoleons is particularly attractive for residents seeking properties with views and a quiet, rural atmosphere. The town is bisected by the Colac-Ballarat Road, a transport route connecting the Princes, Hamilton and Midland Highways. The eastern boundary of the town borders the City of Ballarat suburb Buninyong. Colac-Ballarat Road also forms a direct link between Napoleons and Cambrian Hill to the north as well as Enfield to the south. Streets in Napoleons tend to be wide, sealed and smooth featuring kerbs in some areas, a unique feature amongst the northern townships.
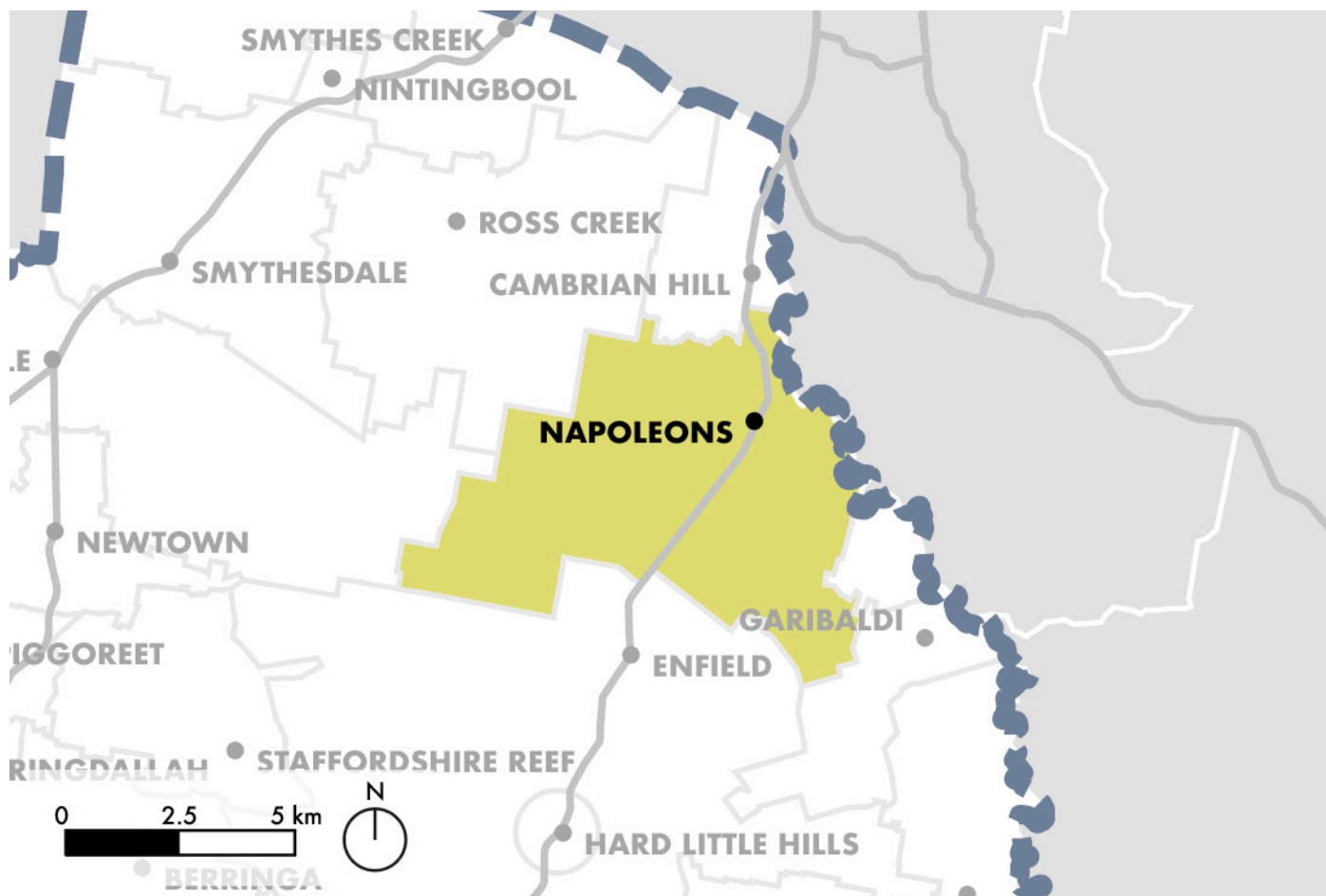


*Context map of Napoleons.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Napoleons area was one of the first in the Ballarat district to be settled by Europeans in 1837. Gold was discovered in 1857 and by the early 1900's was a thriving town. Napoleons was named after a miner who reportedly resembled Napoleon or wore a bicorne hat like Napoleon Bonaparte's. It was first known as 'Napoleon's Lead' and later was called Napoleon and then eventually Napoleons.

In 1865 the Victorian Gazetteer described the settlement of Napoleons as a small mining and agricultural village comprising a population of 800 people, of which 150 were miners. Twenty-four mines operated in the Napoleons surrounding area. By the late 19th century Napoleons had developed into a thriving township comprising four hotels, a grocer, butcher, blacksmith, post office, three churches and two denominational schools.

Remnants of Napoleons heritage are still visible today including Nelson's Water Hole where miners camped to water their horses, mullock heaps indicating the site of former mines, many of which are in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, and the 1888 former police station-residence, which is in the Heritage Overlay. Two Victorian timber houses and a timber church have been identified as potential heritage places.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The township of Napoleons is situated in a pleasant rural setting surrounded by undulating land mostly used for grazing. The Napoleons township is located on a plateau bounded by Dog Trap Creek to the west and the Yarrowee River to the east. These tributaries feed into the Leigh River and characterise a local landscape that is undulating and consists of farmland, bushland, numerous gullies and many water bodies. These streams flow through the rural landscape which presents differing threats to water quality and quantity and each of these environments require different solutions to reduce negative impacts on waterways. Landscapes in the Napoleons area are dominated by the Central Victorian Uplands which consists of very old, loose, gravelly or sandy soils that are poor in nutrients. Areas of open eucalypt forests on the outskirts of the Napoleons township were once extensively mined for gold with much of the timber cut for firewood and mine supports, vegetation in this area has since regenerated. Wide road reserves, established native trees, open drains and views to Mount Buninyong are also significant landscape elements that contribute to the striking rural town character of Napoleons.

The Napoleons area was traditionally born of a gold mining and farming heritage. Mullock heaps are a visible reminder of a bygone era. The district covering the areas of Napoleons, Cambrian Hill, Black Lead, Scotchman's Lead and Enfield has had a long and colourful history. The area was one of the first in the Ballarat district to be settled by Europeans in 1837. There was a complete change of character in 1857 when gold was discovered, from the initial rush for alluvial gold when thousands of miners sought to make their fortunes by panning along the creeks to the establishment of deep lead mining which dominated the district until the early 1900s.

Today, Napoleons remains a vibrant small town with strong community spirit and a strong interrelationship with Enfield and other nearby localities. The township comprises two formal grid patterns, generally aligned to both sides of Colac-Ballarat Road. Here community and commercial facilities like the general store, petrol station, primary school, recreation reserve and tennis club can be found, public assets that are valued by the community. Napoleons has two key areas of open space being the Napoleons Recreation Reserve and the area at the historic Nelson's Water Hole. While Napoleons doesn't have access to many community and commercial facilities, a key strength of the township is its excellent access and linkages to services and infrastructure in the nearby regional City of Ballarat. Housing in Napoleons is characterised by classic heritage cottages, weatherboard and brick veneer homes. Home to approximately 296 people, housing primarily consists of low-density dwellings dispersed linearly along Colac-Ballarat Road and adjoining streets. Napoleons has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.

*Napoleons streetscape and surrounding landscape along Colac-Ballarat Road.*



*Napoleons Recreation Reserve.*



*Napoleons Memorial Hall.*



*Residential development.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Scarsdale is a small town located approximately 21 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire at the intersection of Ballarat-Linton Road, the Old Glenelg Highway and Pitfield-Scarscale Road. These roads link Scarsdale to Newtown in the south and Smythesdale in the north. The north-west area of the Golden Plains Shire is recognised as an area that reflects a rural residential character, comprised of a large proportion of existing small lots which include old crown titles. Many of these lots have been developed for rural residential purposes and contain facilities for associated rural pursuits.
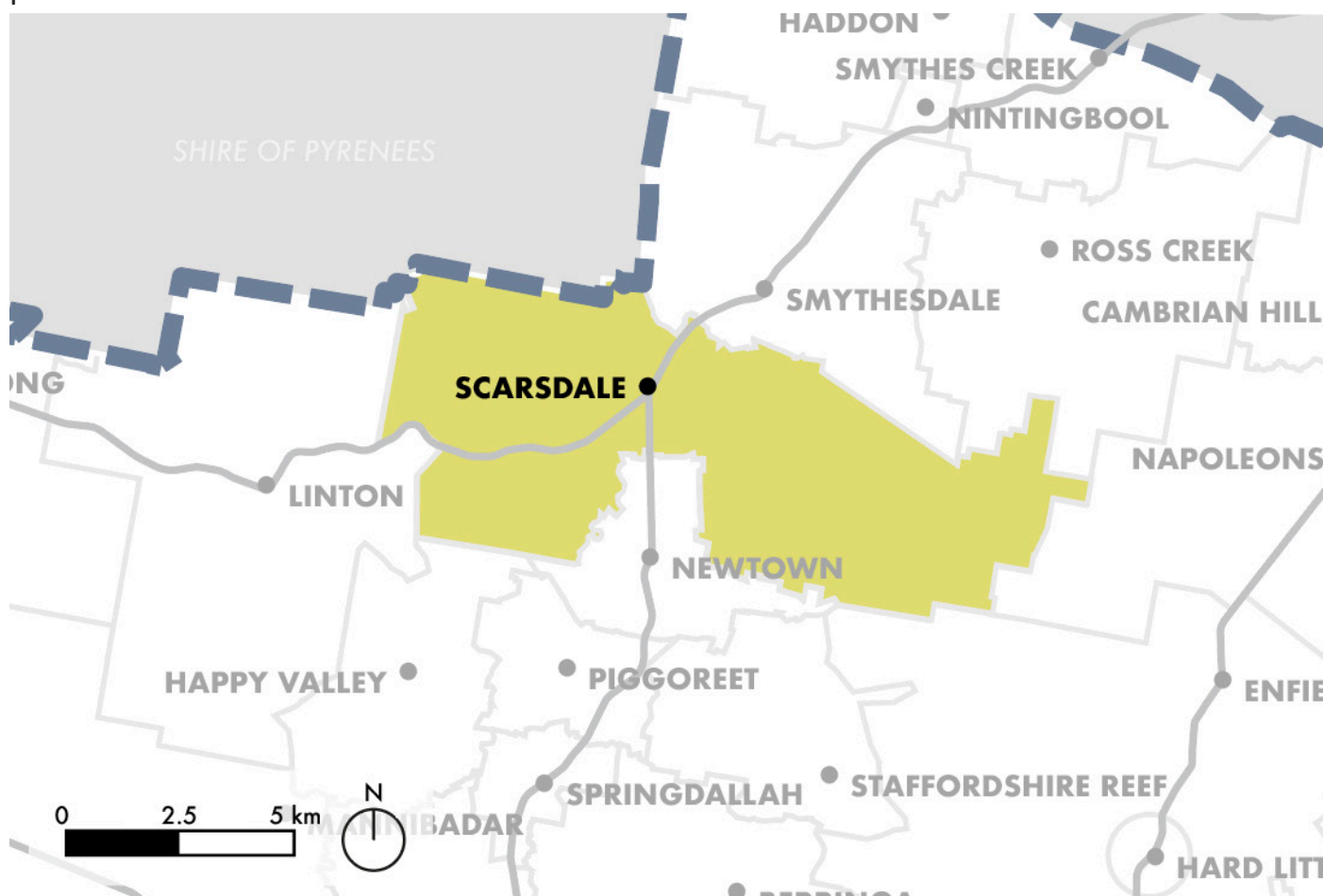


*Context map of Scarsdale.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

While gold had been discovered throughout the Woady Yalloak district, it was the rush to Brown's Diggings which established the town of Scarsdale in 1855 and the consolidation of later finds towards the south which triggered the extension of the town into Newtown, towards Pitfield. The heyday of Scarsdale was in the 1860s, a period of great prosperity. The township is organic and linear in form and pivots around the intersection of the Ballarat-Linton Road, the Old Glenelg Highway and the Pitfield-Scarsdale Road. The main public buildings were always located close to the intersection. The former timber Post Office, the red brick Scarsdale Hotel and the rendered Town Hall stand in a row on the east

side of the Pitfield-Scarsdale Road.

There is a Heritage Overlay precinct on the town centre including an Avenue of Honour at the northern entrance, a mix of Victorian timber and post-war brick houses, and timber interwar shops. There are other individual heritage places scattered along the Glenelg Highway and to the east of the main street, including Victorian houses and the Smythesdale General Cemetery. Many former mining sites located on the flats and foothills to the west and east of the township are in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. A number of early cottages have been identified as potential heritage places.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

749 people live in Scarsdale in predominantly low-density housing distributed in clusters along the Glenelg Highway and adjoining streets. The main residential area is linear in form and pivots around the intersection of the Ballarat-Linton Road, the Old Glenelg Highway and the Pitfield-Scarscale Road. The greater portion of land zoned township is located on the eastern side of the Glenelg Highway. The landscape consists of both cleared land and areas of dense native vegetation across a flat topography. Scarsdale has access to reticulated water and electricity but not reticulated sewerage or gas. There are several community facilities including a primary school, kindergarten, post office, general store, and pub and a traditional town centre.



*Residential development.*
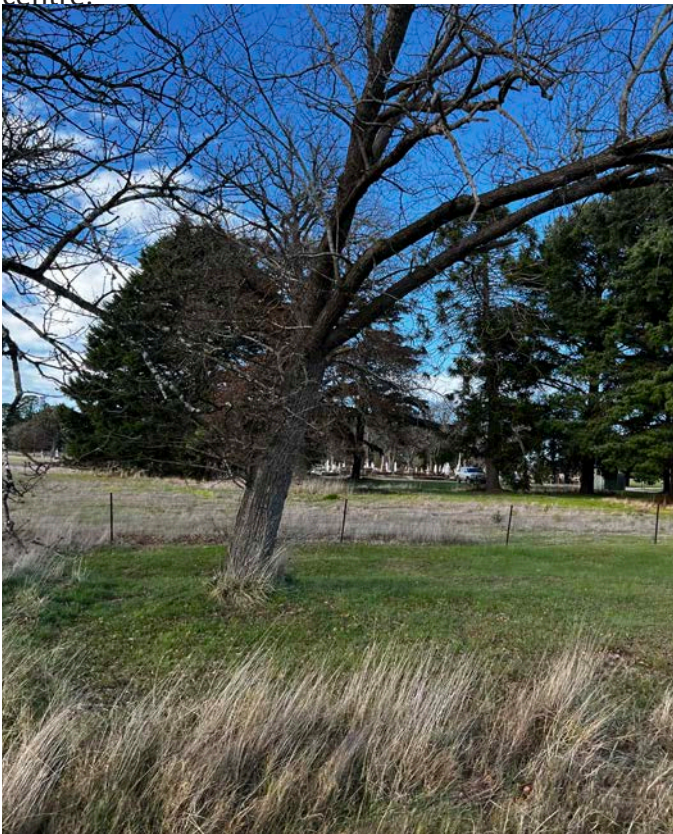


*View of Scarsdale landscape and distant cemetary.*



*Scarsdale town centre along Glenelg Highway.*

# 12. SHELFORD
TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Shelford is an attractive, green and historic township nestled in a panoramic valley with a strong village ambiance. The township promotes country living and a relaxing family friendly lifestyle near regional city Geelong. Shelford is a small town located approximately 37 kilometres north-west of Geelong in the central-southern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The Shelford township offers scenic vistas and a country lifestyle close to the regional centres of Geelong and Ballarat. Shelford is a valley town, bound by well-defined topographic contours and surrounded by a dispersed agricultural community. The township has a strong landscape character influenced by the Leigh River, the former Shelford Hotel, the Gothic Revival bluestone school and Presbyterian Church and Manse, scattered cottages, the community public hall and the stone and iron bridge crossing the Leigh River. The township sits at the intersection between Rokewood-Shelford Road and Inverleigh-Shelford Road, connecting the town to nearby Teesdale to the east and Barunah Park to the west.



*Context map of Shelford.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Golf Hill Station, or the Clyde Company Run, one of the oldest settled properties in Victoria, was established by George Russell in 1836 on the River Leigh at Shelford. It is in the Heritage Overlay, as is Leighburn Homestead built c1902 on land subdivided off from this station.

Shelford township owed its beginnings to its location on a river crossing and the nearby pastoral stations, particularly Golf Hill which abuts its eastern boundary. Its first businesses were hawkers who provisioned shepherds in the 1840s when the site had already been elevated in importance by George Russell's concerns and the importation of a shoemaker, blacksmith, store, ironmonger and clothing and tobacco stores. The town was extended in 1854 and it retains a number of early buildings from this era, including the pre-1854 Shelford Hotel, and the 1859 Presbyterian Church which marks the entrance to the Golf Hill Station.

There are important views across the Leigh River from the bluestone Presbyterian Manse to its church. These buildings, as well as the State School, Mechanics' Institute, small cottages and traditional plantings (particularly Peppercorn and Stone Pine trees) are in a Heritage Overlay precinct centred on Tomson Street.

Following the Second World War, many of the Shire's large pastoral properties were subdivided for Soldier Settlement. This included 18 farms covering 13,450 acres in the Golf Hill Estate and 51 farms covering 32,500 acres within the Shelford Estate.

The former Leigh Shire Hall and the Leigh River Bridge are in the Victorian Heritage Register.



*Presbyterian Church (1859).*
*(Source: Australian Christian Church Histories, n.d.)*
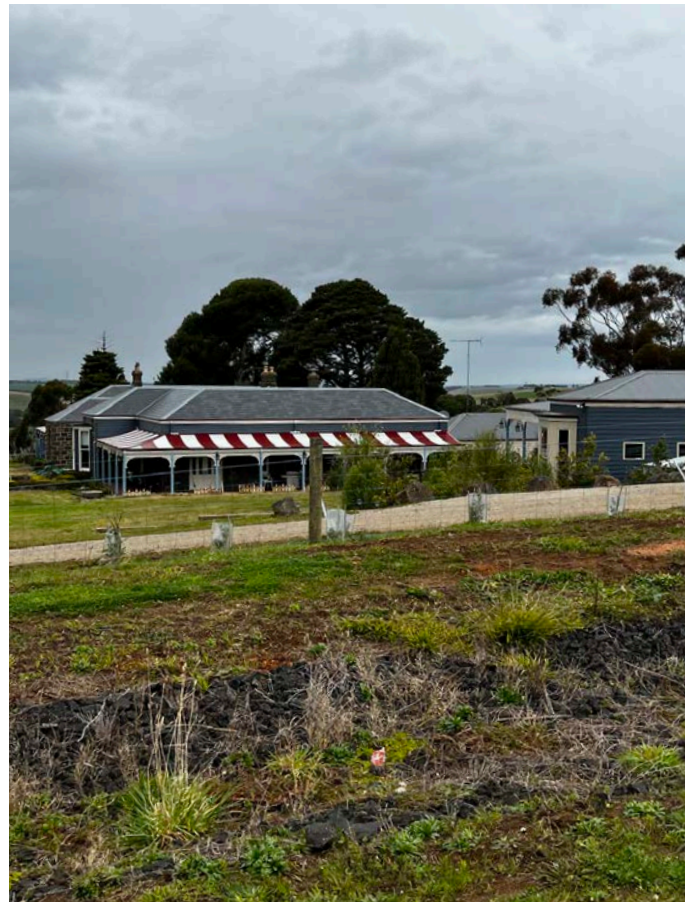


*The Manse.*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Shelford is blessed with a beautiful valley landscape and has expanses of open space in the flood plains adjacent to the Leigh River. The landscape is characterised by undulating hills and broad valleys formed on folded sedimentary rocks and granite plutons formed around 450-350 million years ago. The Leigh River, which passes through the township, contains Riparian Woodland with its River Red-gums the most prominent feature. Poplar trees also feature heavily along the riverbanks. Shrubs include Blackwoods, Black and Silver Wattles and the ground layer, where intact, is characterised by Common Tussock-grass. This woodland is generally confined to the bed and banks, although a few River Red-gums are present on billabongs and old anabranches. The natural landscape of the river environs is enjoyed for its informal fishing, walking, and exploring opportunities. To the east of the river, there is a large tract of Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland with smaller patches of Grassy Woodland interspersed, as the depth of sand varies. The Recreation Reserve is well placed adjacent to the river environs and provides a complementary extension to the informal recreation space with some picnic tables, toilets and a playground between the river and the town's built environment on the western side of the Leigh. The Shelford Duck Race is an annual community fundraising event held on the last Sunday in February at the Shelford Recreation Reserve.

The township of Shelford, located on the Leigh River, was the centre of early pastoral settlement in the former Shire of Leigh. Golf Hill Station one of the oldest pastoral properties in Victoria, was established in 1836 on the River Leigh at Shelford. By 1865, Shelford had a court house, post office, Mechanics Institute, a library and two hotels, the 'Settlers Arms' and the 'Shelford'. The Shelford Hotel survives at the corner of Mercer Street and The Parade. Today, the community is well serviced with a range of community facilities including the Shelford Hall, tennis courts, playground, primary school, Presbyterian Church, post boxes, public toilets, bus stop and Recreation Reserve with an enviable oval and pavilion used for district cricket. The township is laid out in a grid of streets oriented north-south and has no commercial or retail facilities such as a general store. Despite this, there is local demand for a café or coffee shop to attract weekend drivers to the township and promote and sell local produce. The area around the post boxes and information board has been identified and recognised as a community hub. It works as a community island where people drive in and pull up to collect mail, often incidentally meeting up with neighbours. The information board provides a key community communication tool.

Home to around 316 people, housing in Shelford is characterised by classic weatherboard and brick veneer homes, heritage cottages and bluestone homesteads. Modern style dwellings surrounded by landscaped gardens are nestled within the township. The majority of this housing consists of low-density dwellings distributed in a cluster centred around Rokewood-Shelford Road. Shelford has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.



*Shelford Primary School.*



*The Shelford Hotel.*

*Weatherboard residential development.*



*Post-war watherboard residential development.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Berringa is a small town located 28 kilometres south-west of Ballarat, at the intersection of Staffordshire Reef Road and Derwent Jacks Road in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. Staffordshire Reef Road and Derwent Jacks Road, both non-urban arterial roads, also connects Berringa to nearby Staffordshire Reef to the north-east and Springdallah to the north-west.
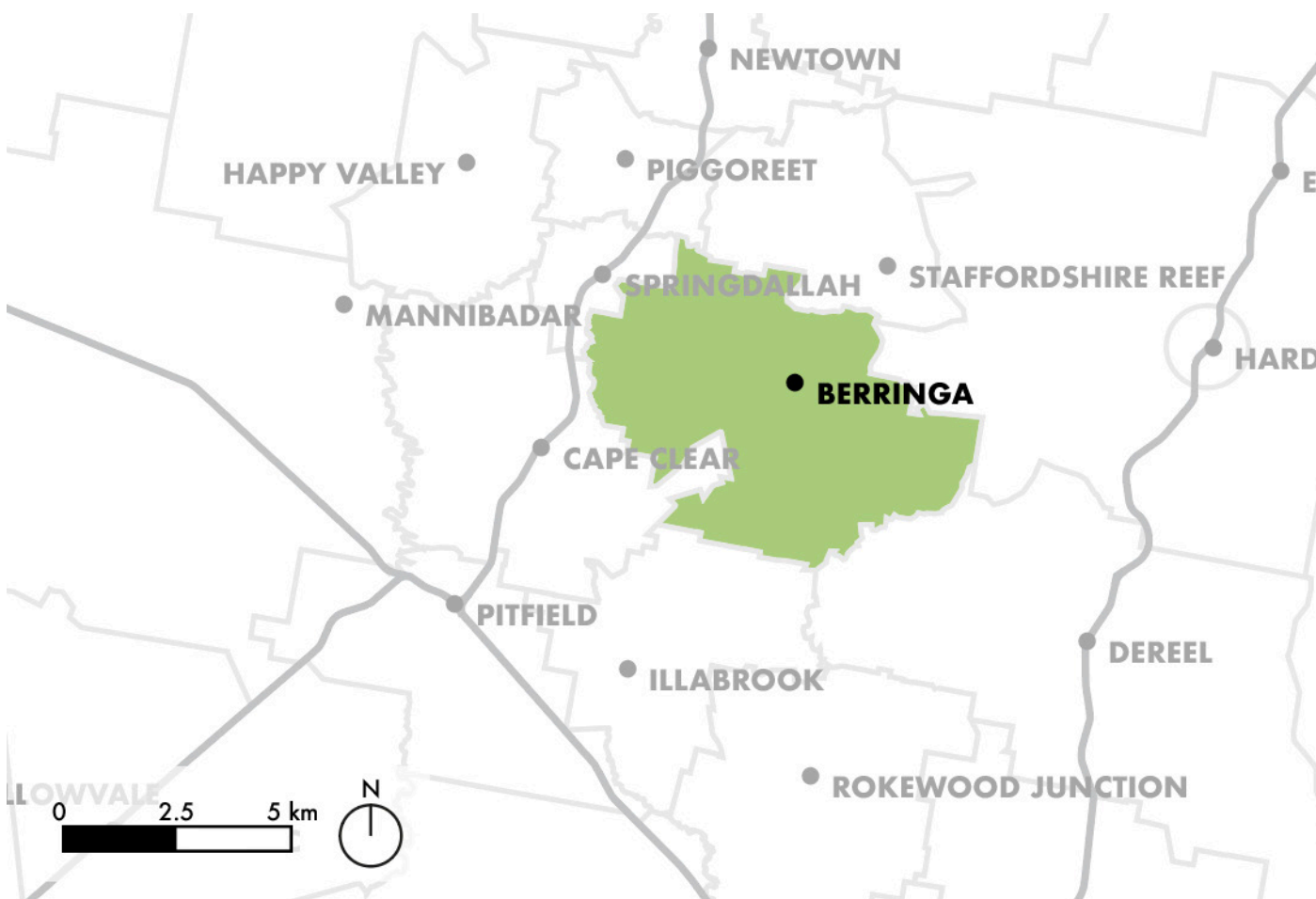
*Context map of Berringa*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Berringa is a former mining town. Gold was discovered there at Kangaroo Gully in 1860, and the settlement was first known as Kangaroo, later as Moonlight, and finally as Berringa (1881). It is thought that the name was derived from an Aboriginal word meaning rainbow or sunset. A Methodist church was opened in the 1860s and a school was opened in 1867. The mining activity resulted in little more than a village until a new find in 1897 stimulated rapid growth. By about 1904 there were numerous shops, butchers, dressmakers, bootmakers, five boarding houses, a coffee palace, a Catholic church and school, a public hall and a local newspaper (1903-20).

Mining had nearly 20 successful years before shops and houses began to be transported out of Berringa to more prosperous places. Within five years the population fell by about 80%. A railway

from the Ballarat area to Colac, via Berringa, ran during 1911-53. In 1937 a new syndicate revived mining, until it ended in 1954. The school was closed in that year and acquired as a public hall.

There are many mining sites around the township area and in the mountains to its east, protected in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and the Heritage Overlay. The township now has a rural character, apart from a few remnant community buildings such as the former State School, St Aiden's Church of England, and the 1906 Mount Misery Creek timber trestle road bridge, all of which are in the Heritage Overlay.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Berringa is dispersed around the intersections of Derwent Jacks Road, Old Station Road and Staffordshire Reef Road, representative of its history as a gold mining town. Berringa reflects a dispersed rural residential community located adjacent to the heavily vegetated and undulating Enfield State Forest. Home to approximately 117 people, Berringa consists of exclusively low-density single houses dispersed throughout the town. Berringa has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and lacks a traditional town centre but does feature a café, public hall and CFA fire station.

# 14. CORINDHAP
## SMALL TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Corindhap is a small rural town located 35 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the central region of the Golden Plains Shire situated on a rise overlooking volcanic plains stretching towards Geelong. The town is serviced by Colac-Ballarat Road, linking the township to Dereel to the north and Rokewood to the south. The road also connects to the Midland Highway providing access to Ballarat.
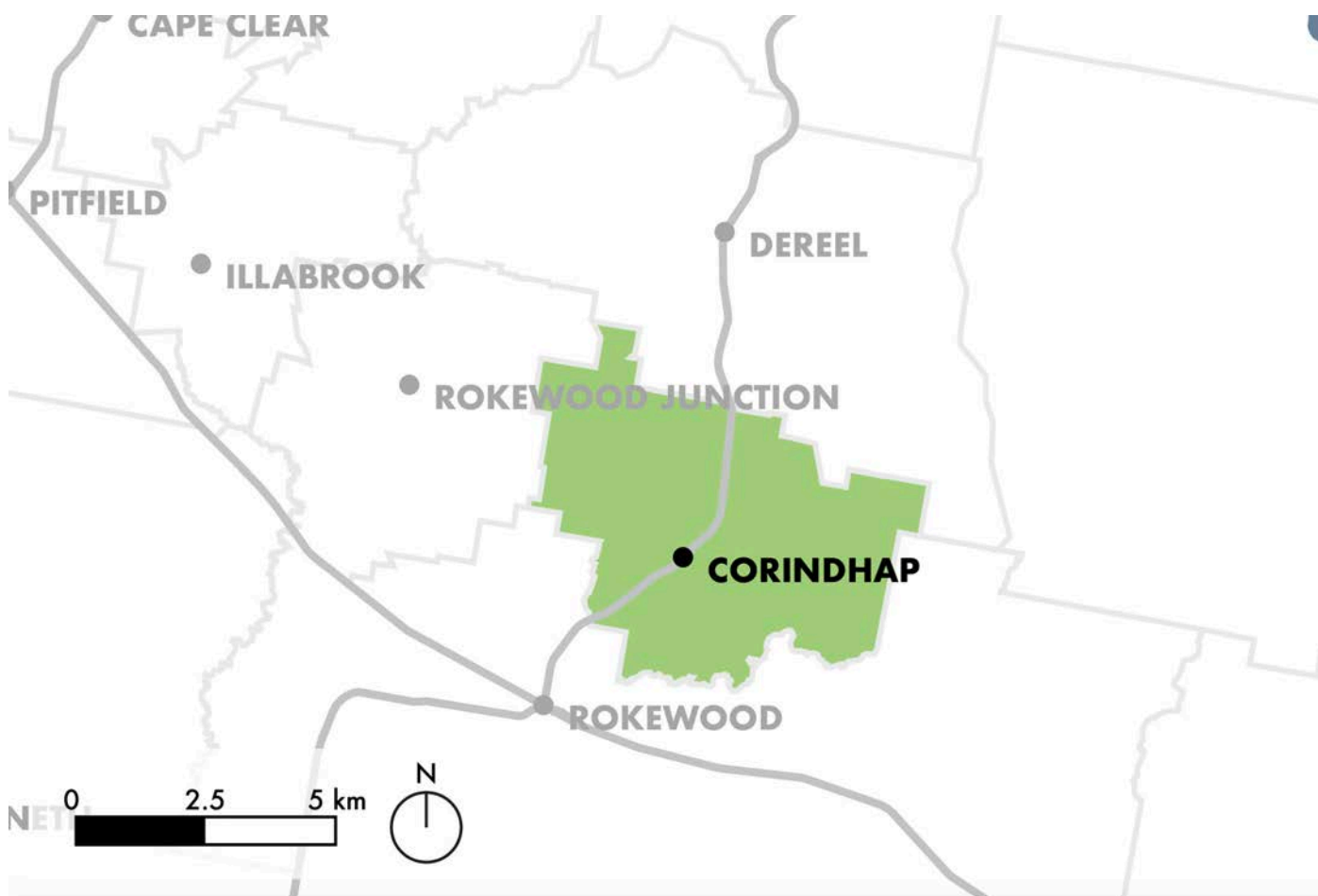


*Context map of Haddon.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The township of Corindhap was first known as Break-O-Day. The area was originally occupied by the Derwent Company as the Wardie Yallock run (later to be known as Kurruck Kurruck), then held by a partnership which included the Atchison brothers in 1839. John Elder purchased the Kurruck Kurruck run in 1857, with his sons taking control of the property in 1863 and renaming it

Kuruc-a-ruc in 1864.

Gold was first discovered on Boundary Hill in 1852. The Break of Day Gully goldfield opened in April-September 1856 with the big rush taking place there in 1861, which resulted in the population of the area reaching 5,000 at its peak. Some of the existing miners' cottages could date from this period. The Break-O'Day Hotel, which

survives today, was built in 1869. The first school was established by the miners in the 1860s. Corindhap was officially proclaimed a town in 1874.

By 1914, Corindhap was described in municipal directories as a mining and agricultural district with a State School, Church, Mechanics' Institute and Library, and Oddfellows' Hall. Its population had fallen to 300 but, with the decline of mining and relatively little employment from pastoralism and agriculture, it declined further to a stable

250 through most of the twentieth century. The former Ross Creek Chapel is in the Heritage Overlay, and the Ross Creek Co. mining site is in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. A mine manager's house on Post Office Road, a former school, former post office, and a farmhouse have been identified potential heritage places. timber Victorian houses on the Ross Creek-Haddon Road, but they have not been identified as potential heritage places.
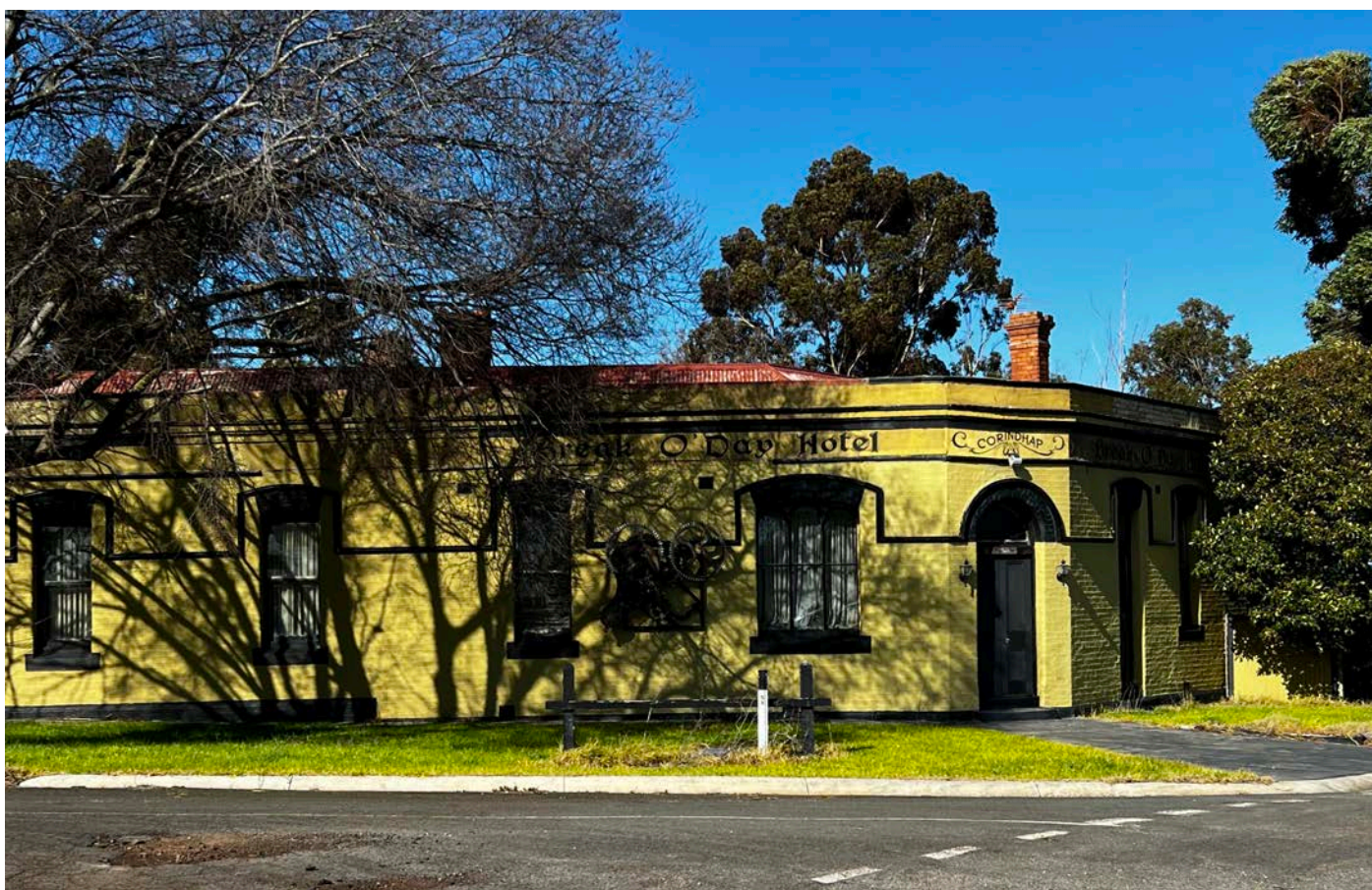


*Break O'Day Hotel (1869)*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today the town is triangular in shape and focused at the intersection of The Avenue and Main Street. Approximately 103 people call Corindhap home, the township characterised by small communities in a rural living environment with close connections to the surrounding farming sector land use activities. Housing stock is predominantly made up of low-density dwellings distributed in a small cluster adjacent to Colac-Ballarat Road. The Corindhap landscape consists of primarily undulating, wide-open and unencumbered land with some remnant vegetation.

The eastern side of Main Street is covered by a Heritage Overlay precinct. It contains the Break O'Day Hotel, a former butcher's shop -cum-post office, St John's Church of England, the Memorial Hall of 1956, and small cottages. This group of buildings retains a strong historic rural township character, due both to their intactness and the wide spaces between them. An Avenue of Honour of Monterey Pines and Cypress defines the southern approach to the town, leading towards a well maintained rectangular park featuring sculptures, benches, gardens and a rotunda. The

former Corindhap State School is located to the north of the precinct. Outside of the township, the Kuruc-a-ruc Homestead complex is also in the Heritage Overlay. Corindhap has access to reticulated electricity and water but is not serviced by sewerage or gas.



*View of Corindhap landscape and distant residential and agricultural development.*



*View of streetscape, avenue of honour and distant Laidler Reserve.*



*Laidler Reserve.*

# 15. ENFIELD
## SMALL TOWN

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## INTRODUCTION:

Enfield is a rural township located 22 kilometres south of Ballarat near the Golden Plains Shire border with the City of Ballarat on Colac-Ballarat Road. This is a non-urban arterial road, connecting Enfield to Ballarat as well as the nearby townships of Napoleons to the north and Dereel to the south.
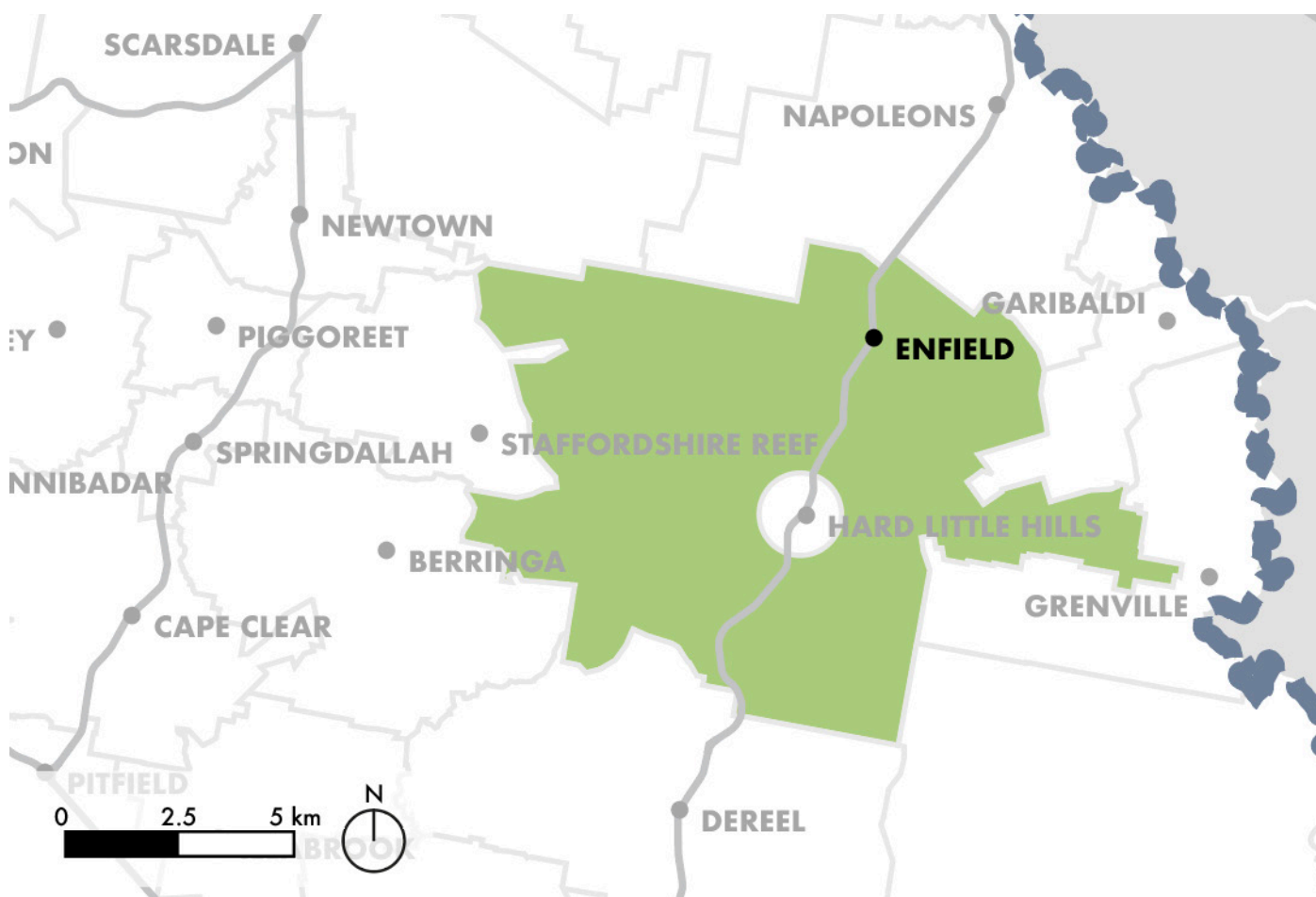


*Context map of Enfield.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Enfield was first recorded as a geographical area in the late 1860's and was the site of a number of many alluvial diggings which can still be found extensively throughout the area, many of them protected in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. The mines, and the remains of a Eucalyptus Oil Distillery and cooling pond, are located in the hilly Enfield State Park. A memorial to the Chinese gold miners can be found at the intersection of the Colac-Ballarat and Hanson roads.

The area was also known as Whim Holes and Little Hard Hills. The later still exists as a tiny township in a valley along Colac-Ballarat Road, which once had several hotels, a post office and a school, but is now solely residential. The current Hard Hills Hotel is a recent building. There are scattered examples of Edwardian and interwar houses, but none have been identified as potential heritage places or included in the Heritage Overlay.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Enfield is nestled between the Enfield State Park and the Enfield State Forest. The Enfield State Forest and Park have been a rich source of timber for the gold mining era and the remains of many alluvial diggings can still be found extensively throughout the area. The main population centres of Enfield are the Woodlands Estate and the Farm Estate.  These Estates are located beside one another with access from the Colac Ballarat Road. The area of Woodlands Estate and the Enfield Farm Estate was originally a part of Jack Clarke's farm. Sheep grazing, apple and pear orchards have been a part of Enfield's rich agricultural history. The Harrison Reserve, located in the Woodlands Estate, is the main community and recreational facility in Enfield. It consists of a Community Hall, a playground, a skate park and undercover barbecue facilities. Enfield has also had several hotels, a post office and a school over the years, but there are now no surviving businesses or facilities with exception to the Enfield fire station

The area is predominantly characterised by rural lifestyle development on small acreage. Enfield's location is characterised by the surrounding bushland and proximity to State Forests which present land management and safety issues as well as significant bushfire risk. Though the majority of Enfield features dense native landscapes, the town centre consists of largely flat, cleared land with some remnant vegetation. Home to approximately 535 people, Enfield consists of primarily low-density housing distributed in a large cluster adjacent to Colac-Ballarat Road. Enfield has access to reticulated water and electricity, partial access to reticulated sewerage and no access to reticulated gas. Despite being partly sewered, this network extends only to the allotments that were present at the time of implementation and there are no plans to extend this network or encourage growth in the future.

Little Hard Hills is a small locality situated within Enfield, south of the main Enfield town centre. Like Enfield, Little Hard Hills is characterised by rural lifestyle development on small acreage surrounded by dense bushland on undulating topography. The precinct consists of a cluster of low-density housing and the Little Hard Hills Hotel (temporarily closed for renovations) distributed in a small linear cluster along Colac-Ballarat Road.
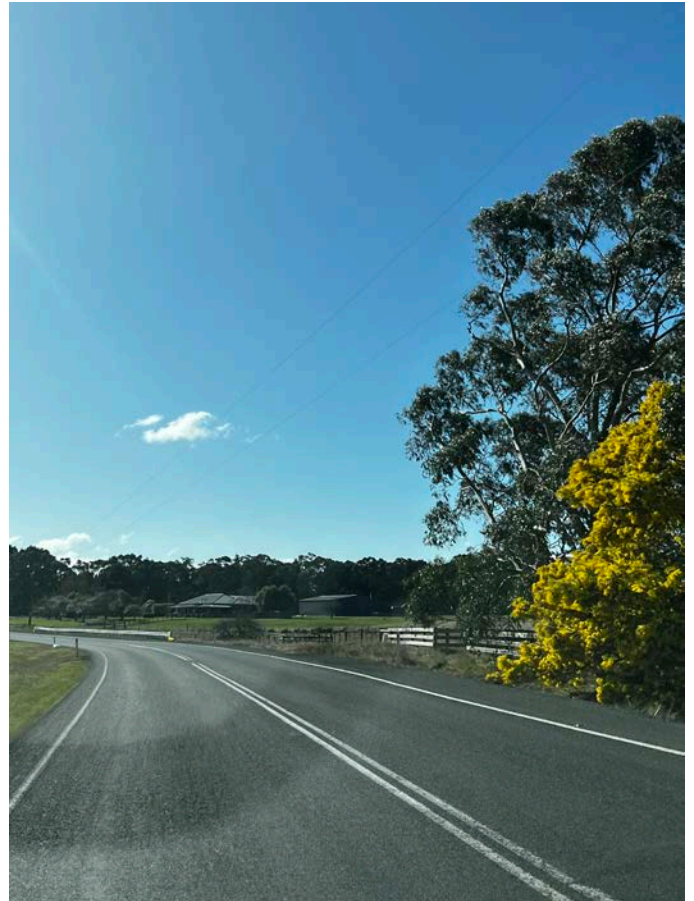


*Enfield streetscape along Colac-Ballarat Road.*



*Enfield streetscape along Colac-Ballarat Road and adjacent native landscape.*

*Little Hard Hills Hotel (Closed for Renovations).*



*Little Hard Hills streetscape along Colac-Ballarat Road.*



*View of Enfield agricultural landscape.*



*View of Little Hard Hills agricultural landscape and residential development from Colac-Ballarat Road.*
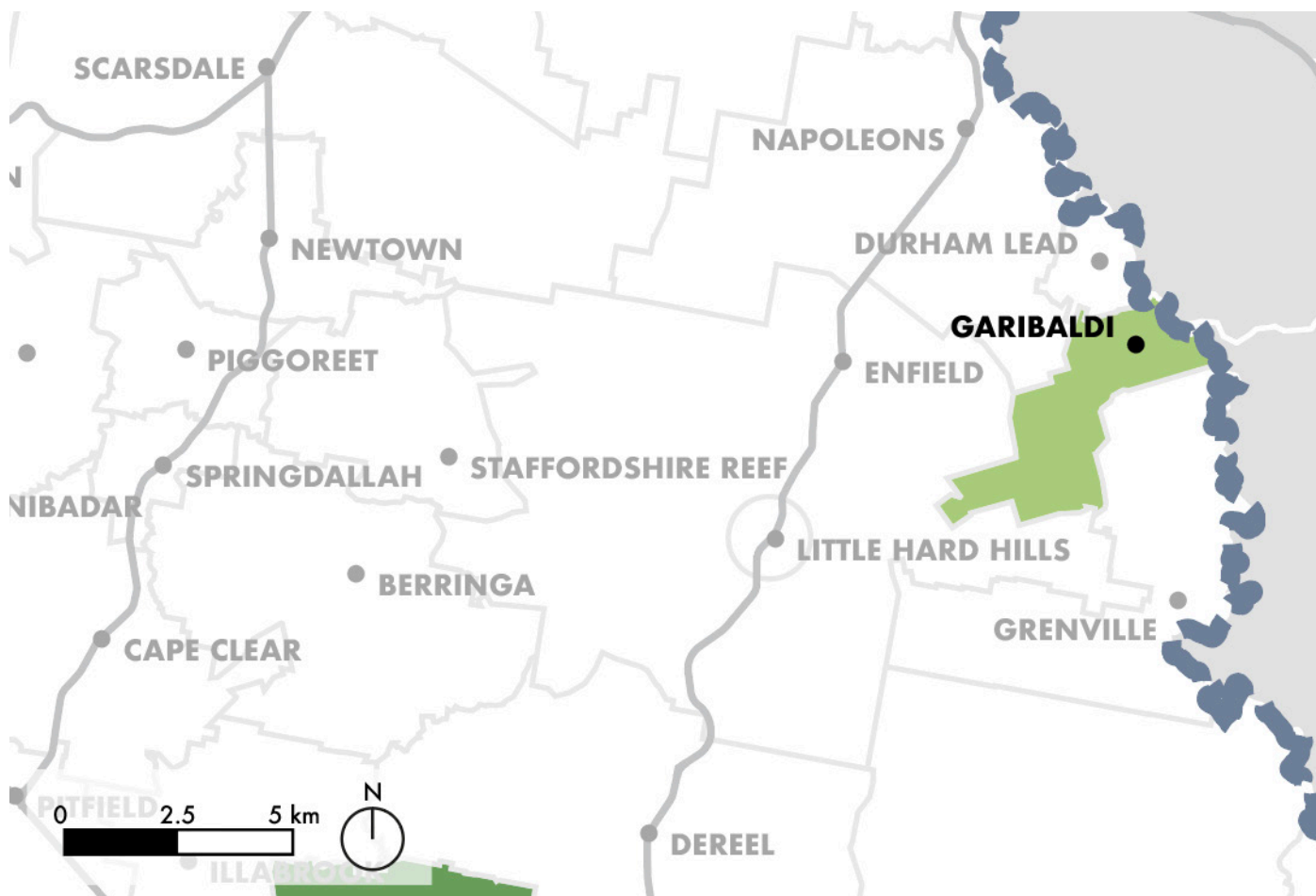
# 16. GARIBALDI
## SMALL TOWN

### INTRODUCTION:

Garibaldi is a small rural locality 20 kilometres south of Ballarat near the Golden Plains Shire border with the City of Ballarat. The town is serviced by Buninyong-Mt Mercer Road, a non-urban arterial road, connecting Garibaldi to the nearby areas of Durham Lead to the north and Grenville to the south. The road also connects to the Midland Highway, linking Garibaldi to Ballarat.



*Context map of Garibaldi.*

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The township of Garibaldi grew around mines along the gold lead, with the Garibaldi Company getting good returns in 1863 but becoming idle the following year due to a lack of water. It was closely associated with Durham Lead. The only public building to survive of the settlement is the 1879 former Garibaldi State School, which is protected in the Heritage Overlay.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Though lacking a traditionally defined town centre, Garibaldi does feature a playground and the Garibaldi Hall. A public art piece was established in 2018 at the Garibaldi Hall.  The Garibaldi Hall was once the local school. In 1915, during the Great War, a 15-year-old boy called William Alban May wrote to the Education Department, requesting permission to be the head teacher at the small school because it was often left without one.  The Education Department approved this, and William became the head teacher. The sculpture depicts a Young William Alban May as well as the letter he wrote more than 100 years ago.

Garibaldi is a predominantly rural area where land is mainly used for farming or agricultural purposes offering a country lifestyle near the regional centre of Ballarat. The Garibaldi landscape consists of predominantly cleared, flat land but does feature some dense vegetation to the west in the Enfield Plantation. Home to approximately 59 people, Garibaldi consists of primarily low-density housing distributed in a cluster along Grenville Drive to the south and another cluster along Hardies Hill Road to the north. Garibaldi has access to reticulated water and electricity but not reticulated sewerage or gas and does not have a traditional town centre or any community or commercial facilities.

# 17. GRENVILLE
## SMALL TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Grenville is a small town located 24 kilometres south of Ballarat near the north-eastern boundary of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Buninyong – Mt Mercer Road, a non-urban arterial road that links the township to Garibaldi and Durham Lead to the north and Mount Mercer to the south. The road also connects to the Midland Highway, providing access to Ballarat to the north.
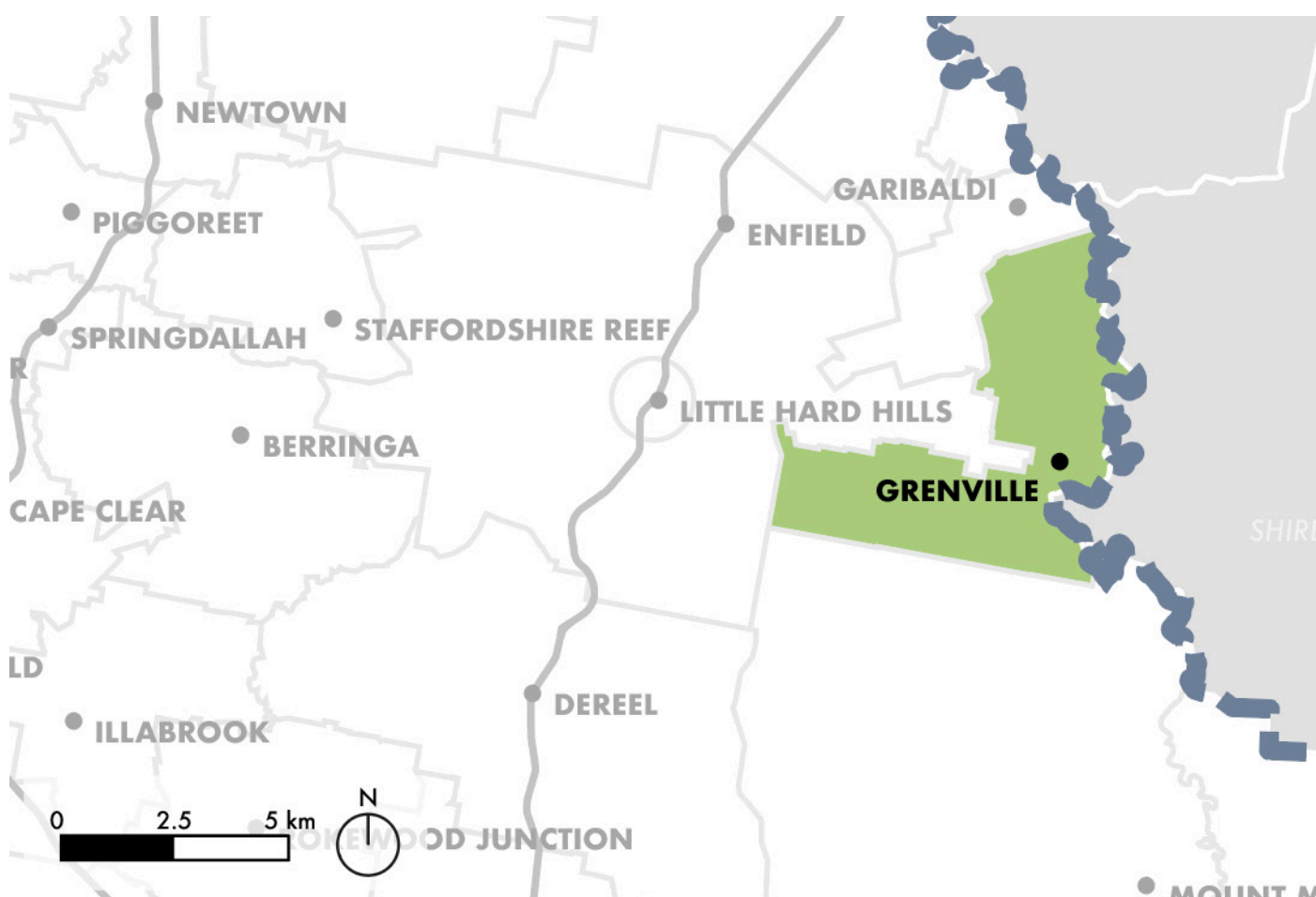


*Context map of Grenville.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Grenville lent its name to the Grenville Shire, created in 1863, but its administrative centre was Linton township while the Grenville Advocate newspaper was published in Smythesdale. Half of the Grenville locality is in Moorabool Shire. It was a mining area in the 1850s, with several mining sites protected in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Though lacking a traditional town centre, Grenville does feature a public hall, tennis club and the Hardies Hill Fire Station. Grenville is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and undulating topography. Home to approximately 97 people, Grenville consists of exclusively low-density housing distributed linearly along Flemings Road and adjacent streets. Grenville has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas.

# 18. HADDON
## SMALL TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Haddon is a township located just 12 kilometres east of Ballarat in the northern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The township is bound by the Ballarat-Carngham Road to the north offering a direct link to the nearby regional city of Ballarat. The Glenelg Highway positioned south of Haddon also links the township to Ballarat as well as nearby Smythes Creek to the east and Smythesdale to the south-west.



*Context map of Haddon.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The township of Haddon was once a prosperous gold mining settlement, with the Young Haddon Gold Mine, Reform Mine No. 1, Reform Mine No. 2 and Racecourse Mine being significant employers of both permanent and itinerant workforces. The gold rush that swept Haddon and district contributed to a rapid rise in population, with the settlement exceeding 3000 residents by 1871. The township was also an important centre for commercial trade and

featured seven hotels, a Church of England, Wesleyan Church, post office and a large Chinese Village. During the late 19th century, agriculture, particularly grazing and wool production, replaced gold mining as the predominant local industry.

While many former mining sites are in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, there are only two places within Haddon township with heritage protection: the Haddon Memorial Reserve and

a Horse Trough. These two places face each other across the central roundabout. There are also several timber Victorian houses on the Ross

Creek-Haddon Road, but they have not been identified as potential heritage places.

*Haddon Memorial Reserve.*



*Haddon Horse Trough.*

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Haddon is sited on the Woady Yaloak River in a relatively flat rural landscape of open paddocks and remnant native trees. A raised ridgeline surrounds the town centre creating a vegetated, bowl-like valley that encapsulates the town. Imported species can be found in gardens on privately owned properties. Haddon sits outside the bushfire risk landscape type 4 that passes through Smythesdale, making the township less susceptible to bushfires than some other areas in the Shire. Private land is mainly used for agriculture with grazing and cropping the dominant enterprises. Public land is largely forested and used for commercial pine timber production or conservation. Private property is also used for residential land uses distributed in large clusters along Wilsons Road, Haddon School Road and Ross Creek-Haddon Road and adjoining streets. Housing stock consists of predominantly low-density single dwellings in a mix of architectural styles including flat and wide ranch style homes, Victorian era dwellings and suburban brick veneer developments. The township also features a small

number of other types of housing such as caravans. Dwellings can be found clustered to the north- east, south-west and south-east as well as linearly along major roadways.

Haddon is a small urban centre that performs an important living, retail, service and community role to residents and its surrounding rural hinterland. Haddon does not possess the typical urban built form of a compact rural town. Two commercial buildings are situated on an elevated side of a triangulated circuit. Across the creek are the community and school facilities, with wide open spaces between. The absence of a dominant main street or continuous street strip development belies the numerous community and sporting groups that support networks and links between individuals, communities, business and government. Community and commercial facilities in Haddon include a primary school, kinder, general store and a CFA shed. A key strength of the township is its proximity to the City of Ballarat and its many facilities and services. Streets in Haddon

are generally sealed and 10 to15 metres in width featuring open barrel drains along both sides of the road. Though sealed, the streets are somewhat bumpy and rough adding to the smalltown country feel of the village. Haddon has access to reticulated water and electricity but not reticulated sewerage and gas.


Haddon Primary School.


View of Haddon streetscape and surrounding 'bowl-like' landscape from Sago Hill Road.
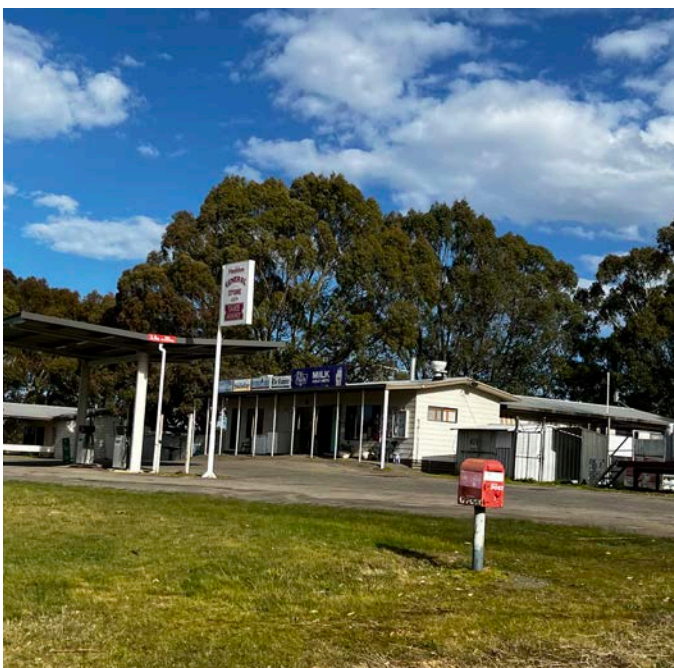

Haddon General Store.
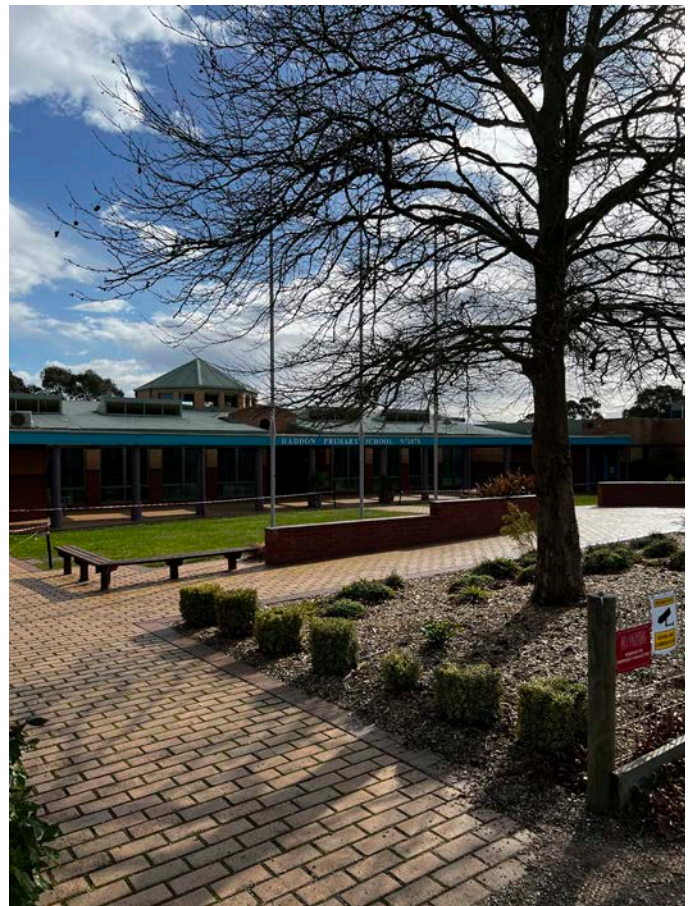

Residential Development.

# 19. MAUDE
## SMALL TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Maude is a small town located 29 kilometres north-west of Geelong near the eastern boundary of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Steiglitz Road and Steiglitz-She Oaks Road, both non-urban arterial roads linking the township to Steiglitz to the north-east and She Oaks to the north-west. Steiglitz Road also connects to the Midland Highway providing access to Ballarat to the north-west.
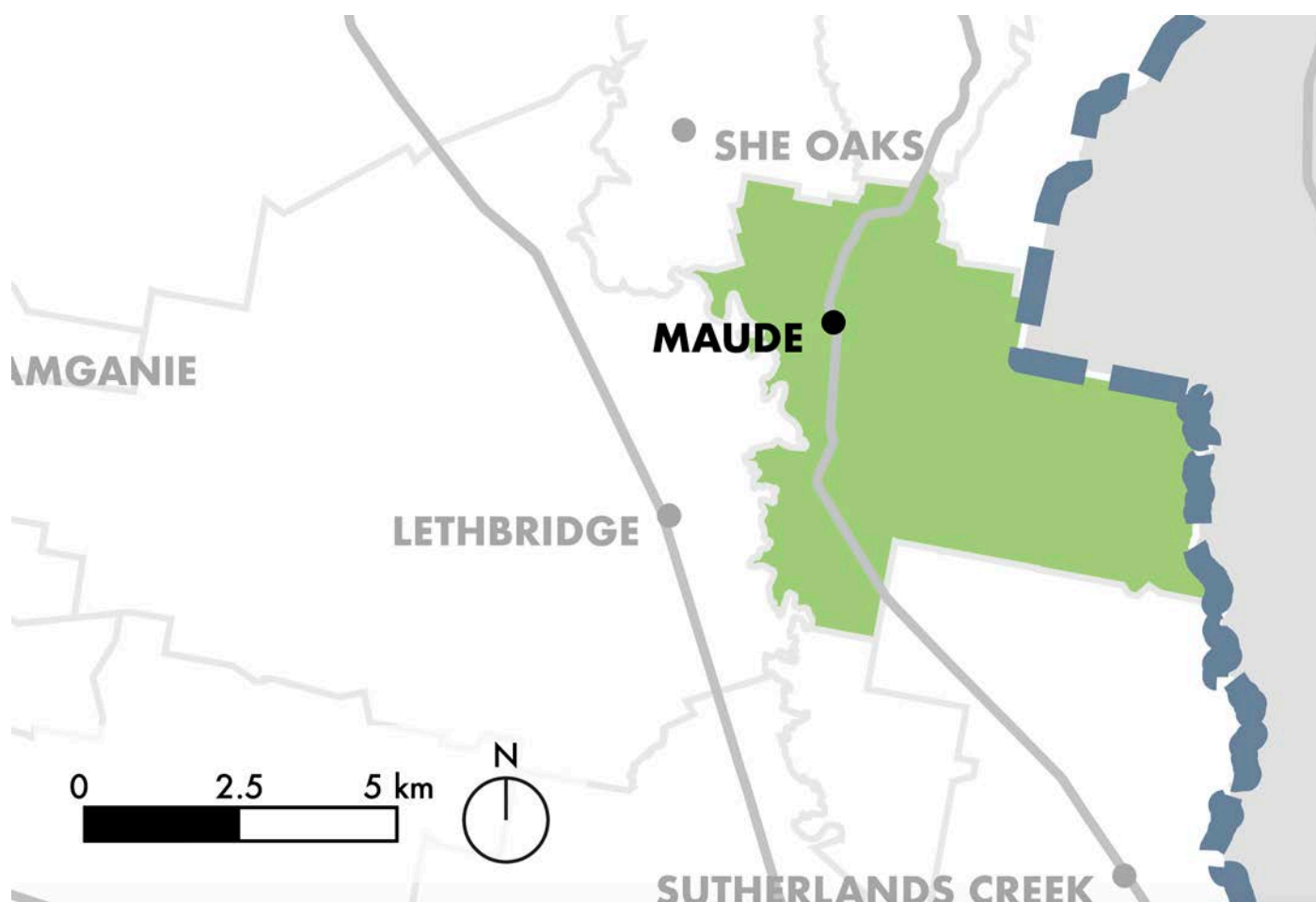


*Context map of Maude.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Maude township was surveyed and subdivided in 1850, with St Paul's Church built in 1860s and at least two inns in the following decade. While affected by the traffic between the gold mining areas, particularly Steiglitz, and Geelong, the area of the Moorabool plain was a mixed farming community, with both sheep and cereal crops. Its school – originally Church of England – was opened in 1874 and survived until 1989 when it was closed. The Anglican church also closed within a year or two. The former school reserve and the former church on Steiglitz Road are potential heritage places.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Maude is distinguished by its location on an escarpment within the Moorabool Valley and its position at the junction of Steiglitz Road and Perdrisat Road which connects to the Midland Highway. The landscape is characterised by a steep valley to the west of the township and undulating terrain towards the east. Bunjil's Lookout, located next to the CFA shed, is a viewing platform that offers a vantage point overlooking the landscape. The platform was designed by local architects drawing inspiration from the indigenous story of the wedge-taled eagle, Bunjil. The Maude township layout is linear and sits atop a high flat ridge. The character of the town is strongly influenced by the Bunjil Lookout, which celebrates, pays homage to and recognises the significant landscape qualities and cultural values of the Moorabool Valley. The CFA shed together with the Bunjil Lookout provide an important community meeting space that is well used and cared for, demonstrating the strength of community in this hamlet. The Maude tennis club has survived and is active. The courts and its facilities speak to the endurance and the significance of these facilities for sustaining and nurturing rural communities. Maude is also home to a small playground and two wineries.

Maude is surrounded by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and undulating topography. Paperbark eucalyptus trees are a common site in the small town as are She Oaks. Home to approximately 221 people, Maude consists of primarily low-density housing distributed linearly along Steiglitz Road and adjoining streets. The structures feature a mix of 20th century architectural styles and post and wire fencing along property borders. Maude has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.



*Maude Tennis Club.*
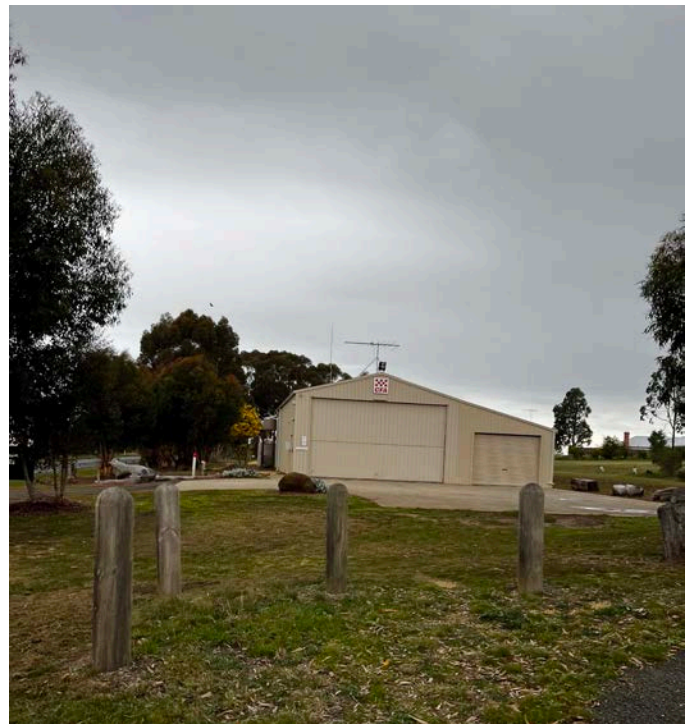


*Maude CFA Shed.*



*Bunjil's Lookout.*

*Westerly View from Bunjil's Lookout*

# 20. MURGHEBOLUC
## SMALL TOWN

## INTRODUCTION:

Murgheboluc is a small rural town 20 kilometres north-east of Geelong near the southern boundary of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is bisected by the Hamilton Highway, a non-urban arterial road linking the township to nearby Inverleigh to the west and Stonehaven to the east. The Hamilton Highway also directly links Murgheboluc to the City of Geelong.
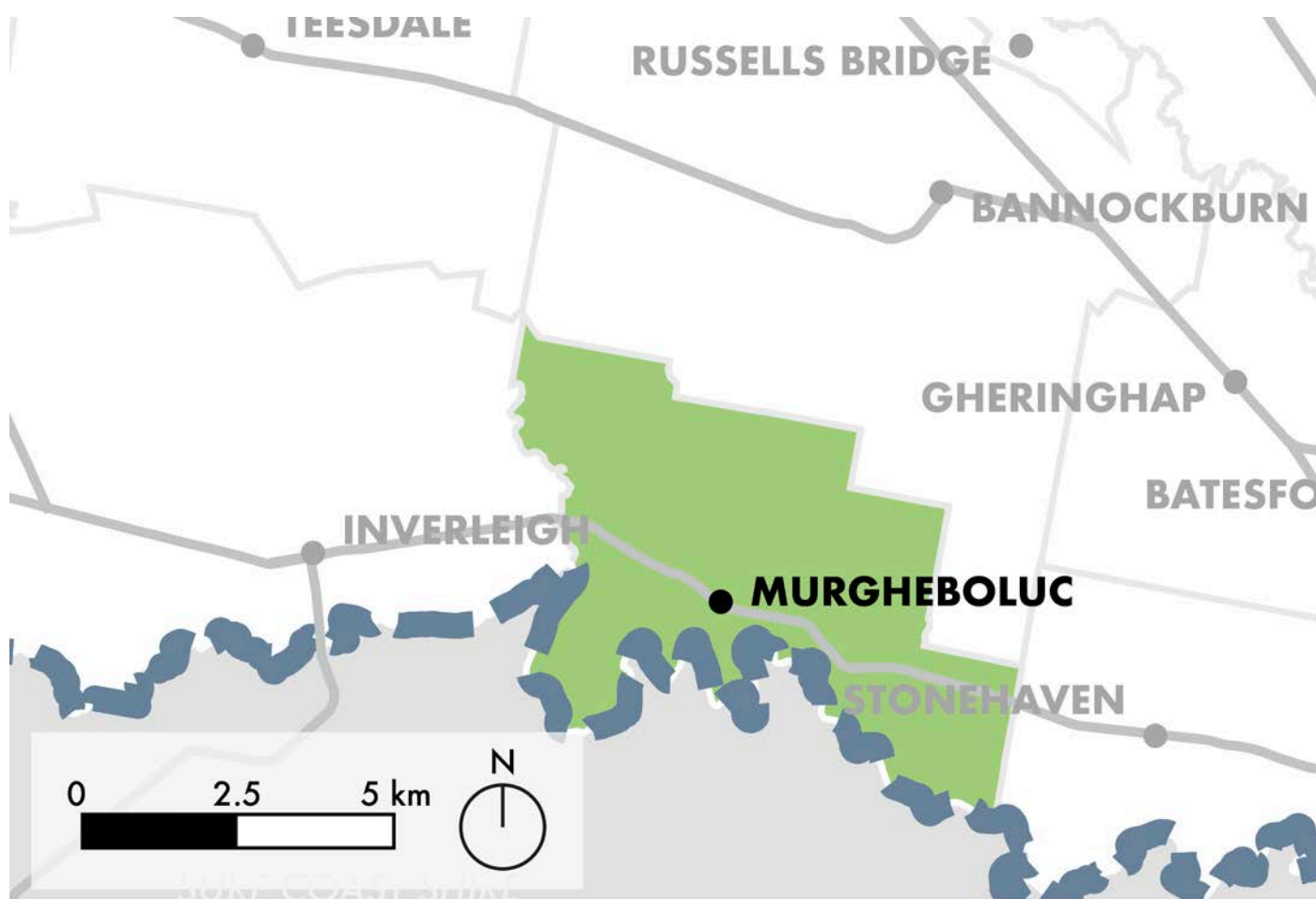


*Context map of Murgheboluc.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The early settlement of Murgheboluc is associated with pastoral pioneers Archibald and William Cross Yuille from 1836-7, the Derwent Company from 1838 - 1842 and Thorpe from 1837-42. In 1854, James Austin, a pastoral pioneer from Somerset in England arranged for a small township to be surveyed along the important colonial trade route that linked Geelong to the Western Districts via Cressy, now

Hamilton Highway. The Pig and Whistle Hotel was established by 1857, and it survives in an altered condition as a private home. Its first Anglican church and school opened in 1855, with a new school in 1875 boasting 100 pupils.

The 1875 bluestone building survives at the Murgheboluc Public Reserve, one of a small group of Heritage Overlay places. 'Athelston, a bluestone Victorian house, stands directly

across the road. St Andrew's Anglican Chapel along with its grove of Pinus pinea (Stone Pines), and the archaeological remains of a former inn, blacksmith's shop and mill are also part of this group.

Two early homesteads, Cameron Hill (or Brislane) and Burnside are located at the western and eastern ends of the locality. The former is associated with John Ritchie, pastoral pioneer and vigneron and the latter with A.S. Robertson, pastoral pioneer. Other small farms and their traditional outbuildings survive, many of which are in the Heritage Overlay. In addition, there are many early houses and a bluestone culvert identified as potential heritage places.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Murgheboluc is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and undulating topography. The area provides a picturesque rural landscape between Geelong, Bannockburn and Inverleigh and contributes to the country lifestyle values of the surrounding townships. Home to approximately 131 people, Murgheboluc consists of a scattering of primarily low density housing dispersed linearly along Hamilton Highway. Though the town doesn't have a traditionally defined town centre, Murgheboluc does feature a recreation reserve and the surviving bluestone hall, valuable facilities for the local community. Murgheboluc has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas.

# 21. ROSS CREEK
## SMALL TOWN

### INTRODUCTION:

Ross Creek is a small town located approximately 12 kilometres south-west of Ballarat near the Golden Plains Shire border with the City of Ballarat. The town is situated between the gold fields of Ballarat and Smythesdale. Serviced by Sebastopol-Smythesdale Road, the town is linked to nearby Sebastopol to the north-east and Smythesdale to the south-west. The road also connects to the Midland Highway providing access to Ballarat. Streets in Ross Creek are sealed and generally 10 to 15 metres in width featuring kerbs in some areas.
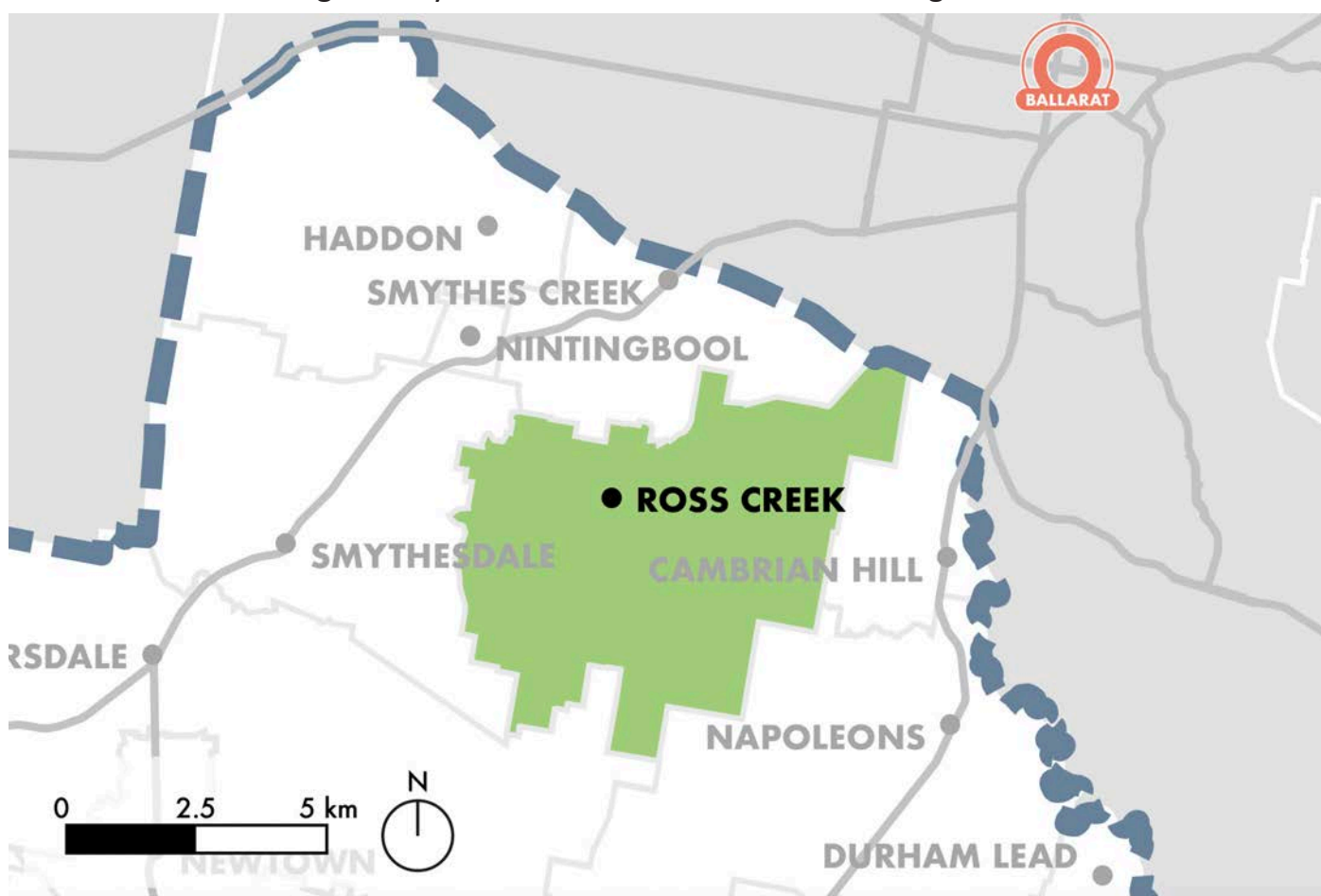
*Context map of Ross Creek*

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

In April 1841 Captain Charles Henry Ross occupied the 30,000 acre run on the Woady Yaloak Creek, for just a £10 lease licence fee per annum. He remained there until 1843 when George Forbes took over. In 1848 the run was transferred to Thomas Sprout and John Brown. The run stretched from present day Hillcrest in the west, Italian Gully in the south, Cambrian Hill in the east and Nintingbool near Haddon in the north. Ross Creek is unique in the Woady Yaloak district in that it was not founded directly on the gold industry. It has never been a township and its population has always been relatively small and stable. The settlement had a school from 1865 as well as a Post Office, library, several churches and some public and commercial buildings. The bluestone remains of the Welsh Congregational Church can still be seen today on Spratlings Road. Most of the families were wood

cutters, general farmers and dairy farmers. The former Ross Creek Chapel is in the Heritage Overlay, and the Ross Creek Co. mining site is in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. A mine manager's house on Post Office Road, a former school, former post office, and a farmhouse have been identified potential heritage places. timber Victorian houses on the Ross Creek-Haddon Road, but they have not been identified as potential heritage places.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Ross Creek remains a primarily rural residential and broad acre farming area. The area forms part of a rural lifestyle belt separating Ballarat from settlements such as Napoleons and Smythesdale. Home to approximately 831 people, housing stock in Ross Creek consists of predominantly low-density dwellings dispersed linearly along Sebastapol-Smythesdale Road and adjoining streets. The landscape consists of both cleared land and some areas of dense native vegetation across a largely flat topography. Some imported species can be found, though, these tend to be in private gardens. Hills behind the township frames views while a large open drain flowing into a billabong flows through the town and adds visual interest to the landscape. Ross Creek has access to reticulated water and electricity but not reticulated sewerage or gas as well as several community facilities including a primary school, post office and general store.
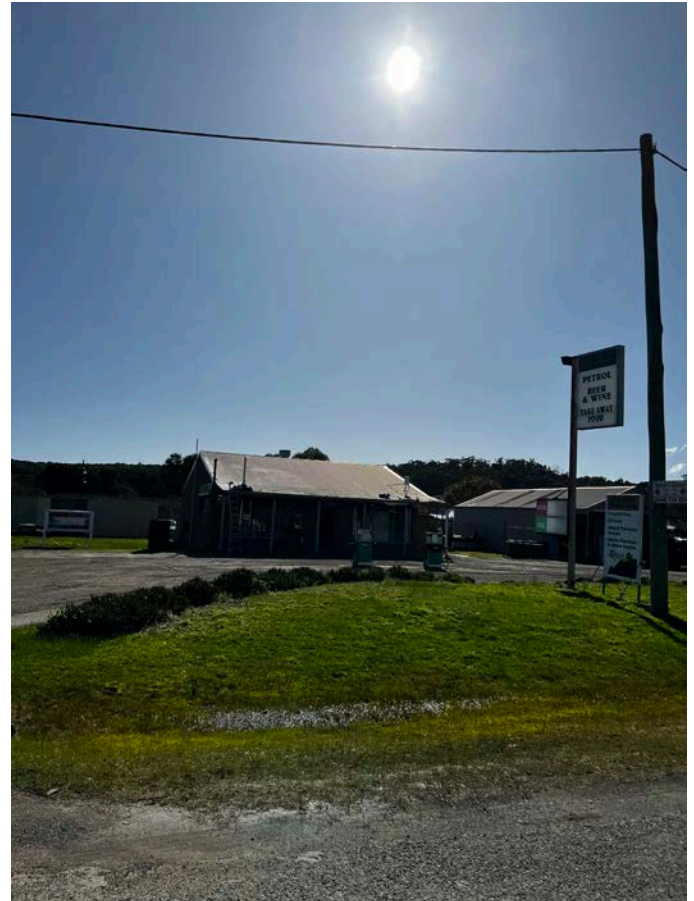

Ross Creek General Store.


Residential development.


Ross Creek Recreation Reserve.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Sutherlands Creek is a small town approximately 22 kilometres north-west of the Geelong city centre in the south-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Steiglitz Road, linking the village to Geelong via the Midland Highway and the nearby village of Maude to the north. Sutherlands Creek is dominated by agricultural land uses and features groupings of remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Though lacking a clearly defined town centre, Sutherlands Creek does feature both the Workers Barbecue Restaurant and the Sutherlands Creek Tennis Club Playground, valuable commercial and community assets. There are also three wineries in Sutherlands Creek including Rowsley Fault Vineyard, Austin Wines and Pettavel Vineyard. Home to approximately 82 people, Sutherlands Creek consists of a scattering of exclusively low-density housing distributed linearly along Steiglitz Road.
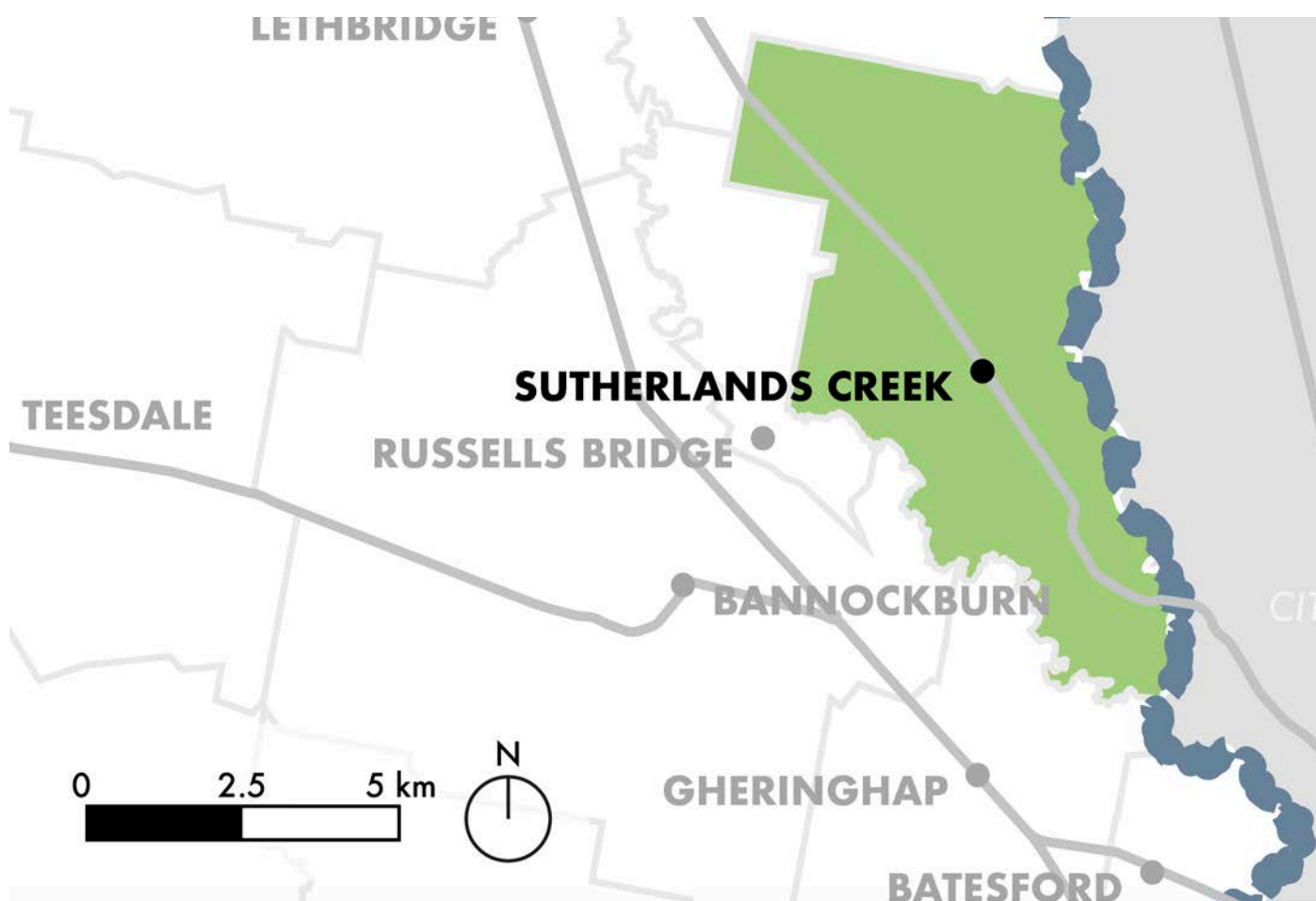


*Context map of Sutherlands Creek.*

*Sutherlands Creek streetscape from Steiglitz Road.*



*Sutherlands Creek Tennis Club.*

# 23. ANAKIE
## LOCALITY

## INTRODUCTION:

Anakie is a locality situated 20 kilometres north of Geelong, midway between Geelong and Bacchus Marsh in the south- eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The township of Anakie is mostly within the City of Greater Geelong with a small portion in Golden Plains Shire adjacent to Steiglitz and Maude. Anakie lies at the foothills of the Brisbane Ranges.
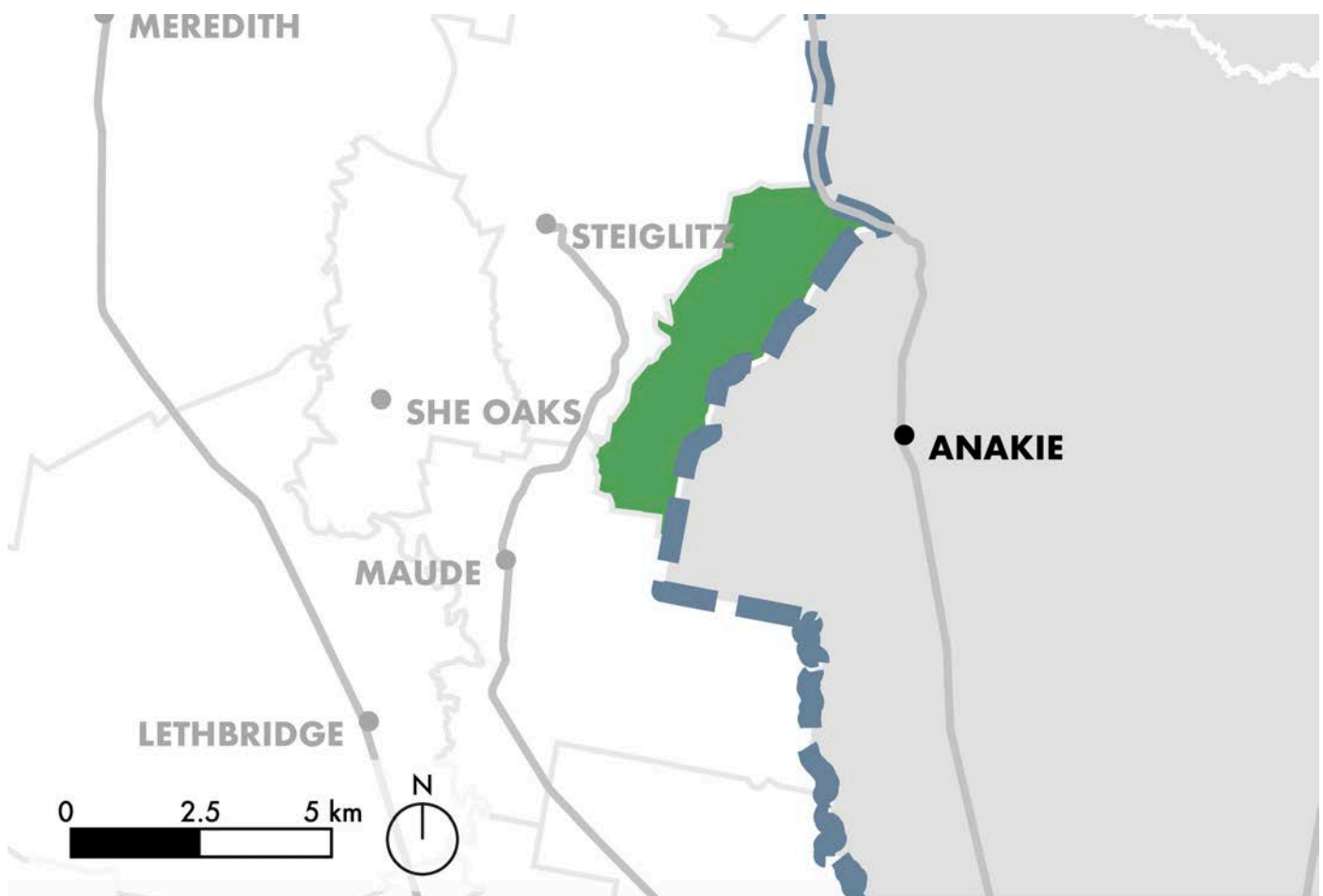


*Context map of Anakie.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Brisbane Ranges and areas around Anakie are important for the Wadawurrung people. The town was settled by Europeans for agricultural purposes in the 1840's and grew in size 1850's with an influx of small farms. At its height the township had a hotel, a Presbyterian Church and two schools. but the population dropped substantially over the late nineteenth century.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The majority of residents in the locality of Anakie are within the municipal boundary of City of Greater Geelong. The area within Golden Plains Shire is heavily forested and is within the Rural Conservation Zone.

Agriculture is an integral part of the local rural economy and the environmental values are a strong element of the character of the locality. Many of the properties in the locality are used for a rural residential lifestyle.

Anakie has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas.

# 24. BAMGANIE
## LOCALITY

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

### INTRODUCTION:

Bamganie is a rural farming locality located 38 kilometres north-west of Geelong in the central-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The area is serviced by Meredith-Shelford Road, a non-urban arterial road that links Bamganie to the nearby townships of Meredith, Shelford, and Teesdale.
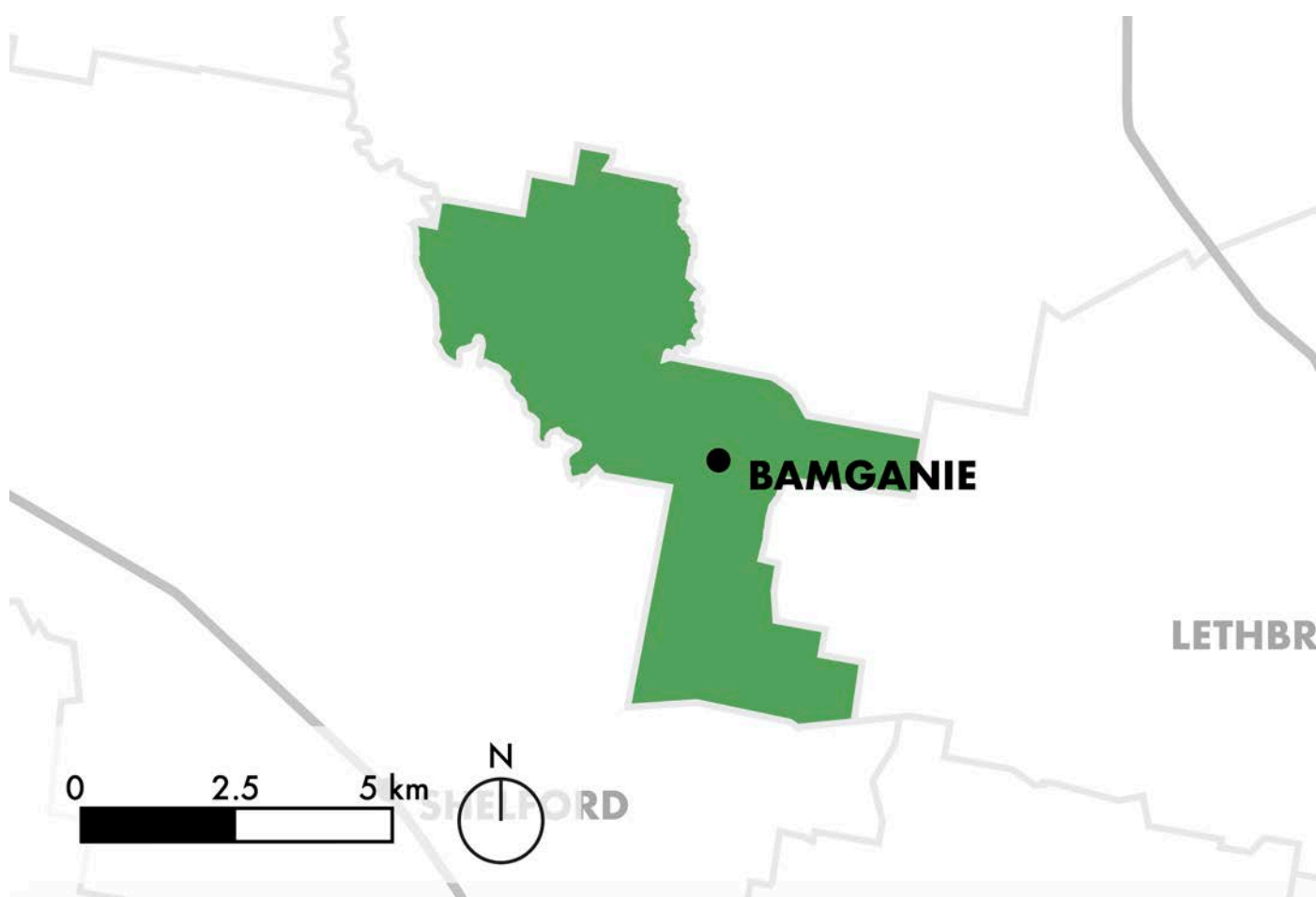


*Context map of Bamganie.*

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Bamganie was once part of George Russell's Golf Hill Station (the Homestead is located in Shelford). Russell was one of the first squatters from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) to explore and then settle land in Victoria. He purchased this pastoral run in 1842. The soils of the district were unsuitable for agriculture and thus its association with the pastoral sector continued. Henry Bolte had a farm there on land owned in the 1880s by the Leidwill family. Its school opened in 1875 but closed 1933, replaced by a memorial of pines. There are no places in Bamganie in the Heritage Overlay or identified for future assessment.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Bamganie is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 40 people, Bamganie consists of a few houses associated with farms in a sporadic linear alignment fronting the Meredith-Shelford Road. The area has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas and has no community facilities or town centre.

## INTRODUCTION:

Barunah Park is a rural locality 46 kilometres west of Geelong and 52 kilometres south of Ballarat in the south-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The area is situated between Shelford and Rokewood. The area is bounded by the Rokewood-Shelford Road to the north and Cressy-Shelford Road to the south, both non-urban arterial roads.
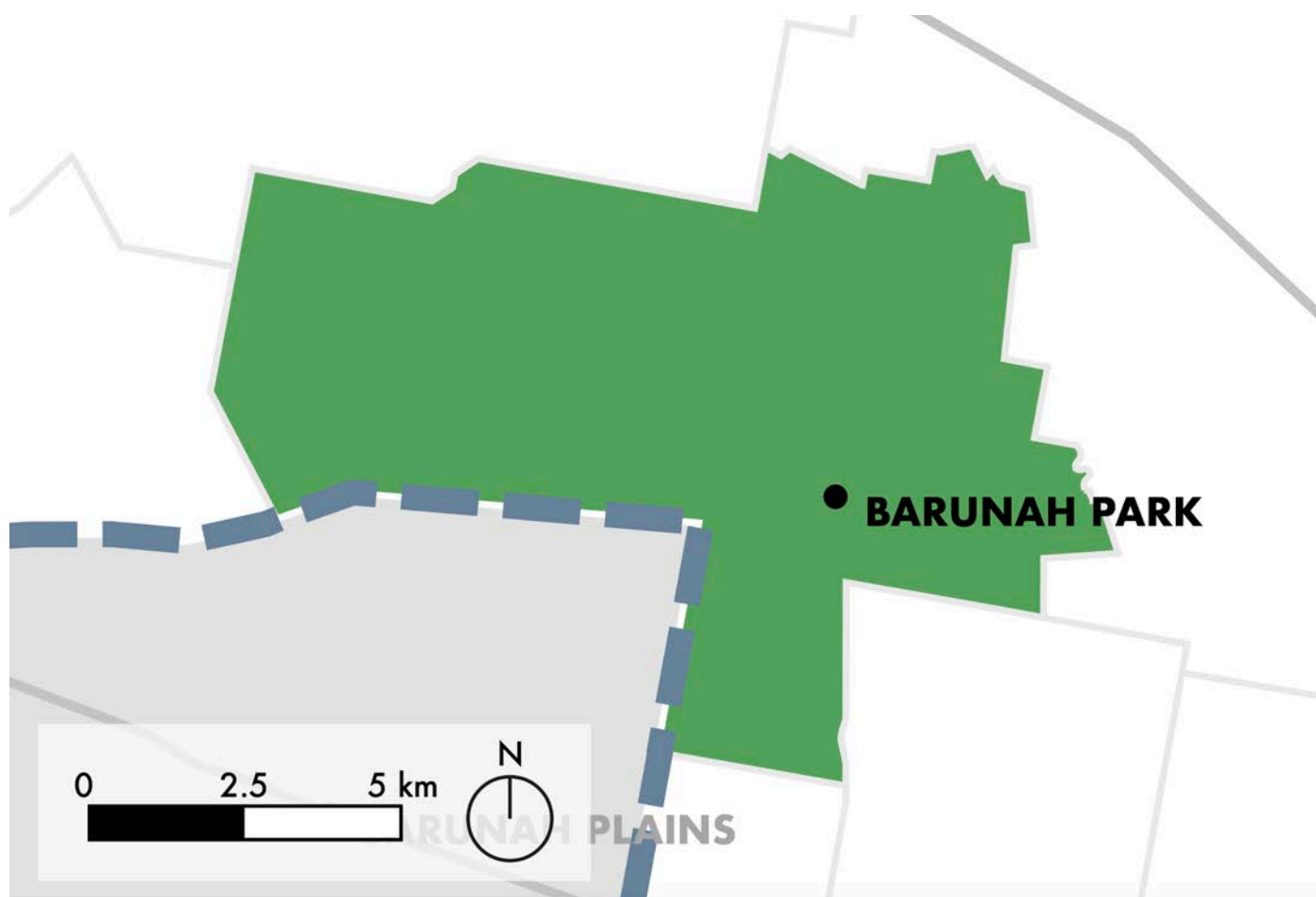


*Context map of Barunah Park*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Barunah Park was created from a subdivision of the Barunah Plains run. The pastoral run was first established in the late 1830s and was first known as the Long Water Hole run, later Warracbarunah. In the 1840s the run was held by James Austin, and then from 1851 by Thomas and Philip Russell with their cousin John Simson. The Barunah Plains Homestead was built in 1868 for Thomas Russell; it is located in Hesse.

In 1854, the Barunah Plains run was noted as ideal as a sheep run but poorly suited for agriculture. Despite this, the Soldier Settlement Commission purchased half of the run in 1949 and subdivided it for small-scale farming, including the locality of Barunah Park. It is still agricultural land. This phase of development is marked by the Soldier Settlement Monument on the Cressy-Shelford Road, Barunah Park. There are no places with heritage protection in Barunah Park.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Barunah Park is dominated by agricultural land uses and features pockets of remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 25 people, Barunah Park has a scattering of farming properties with associated houses dispersed throughout the locality.  Though lacking a traditional town centre or community and commercial facilities, the locality does feature the Barunah Park Public Hall, a valuable community asset in the area. The brick building is situated in the middle of the district between Barunah Park and Barunah Plains, servicing both localities. The Barunah Park 2021-2024 Community Plan seeks to improve the public hall by transforming it into a welcoming place that supports annual community events. Additionally, the construction of a replica Soldier Settlement Hut is proposed spreading awareness of and celebrating the area's local history. Barunah Park has access to reticulated electricity but lacks access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas.

## INTRODUCTION:

Batesford is a locality located 10 kilometres west of Geelong, midway between Geelong and Bannockburn in the south- eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by the Midland Highway, creating direct links to Geelong and Ballarat, and is bound by the Moorabool River and Dog Rocks Road to the east which also forms a municipal boundary with the City of Greater Geelong. Batesford has the ambience of a village  distinguished by its topography and low scale development.



*Context map of Batesford.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Batesford is divided between the Shire of Golden Plains and the City of Greater Geelong with the boundary largely along the Moorabool River. The locality's name comes from two brothers, Alfred and John Bates, who in 1837 settled at a spot where the Moorabool River was readily forded.

The Batesford town centre is located on the east side of the river in the City of Greater Geelong, though the only facilities are the Batesford Hotel and a tennis club. The western half, in Golden Plains Shire, is characterised by rural uses. The first major homestead on the Golden Plains side was Dr John Learmouth's Laurence Park Homestead. He purchased the land from the Port Phillip Association in 1839 and built a first house in 1842. It was destroyed by fire and the first

part of the current masonry house was built in 1845. It is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

In 1846 a wooden bridge was built over the Moorabool River at Batesford, but it was washed away in floods in 1848. In 1859 the road bridge was rebuilt in bluestone (basalt), a five-span structure, considered to be one of the finest of its kind. A larger railway bridge, with nine basalt piers, was built a short distance upstream in 1862. Both are on the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Batesford countryside was generally flat to undulating with good soil, suitable for small-farm agriculture. Orchards and vineyards were planted, and the Moorabool River Valley had over twenty Swiss vignerons until the phylloxera disease devastated the industry in the 1870s.

Apart from the bridges, other heritage places near the town centre area reflect its location on basalt plains, with an 1853 former police station (now Chaumont Homestead), mid-1850s pair of houses (Innisfail), and a bluestone cottage on Hills Road all constructed of this locally quarried material. All of these places are protected by the Heritage Overlay, and the Batesford Cemetery has been identified as a potential heritage place. There is also the former Ashby Methodist Manse at 39 Blackall Road. It is a two-storey bichrome brick Italianate Victorian house relocated from Geelong in the 1970s.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Much of the Golden Plains Batesford locality is centred around the Dog Rocks Reserve and called the Dog Rocks Estate. Here large rural residential family homes can be found distributed in an expansive cluster adjacent to the Midland Highway. Dwellings feature large setbacks and a range of building materials including brick and weatherboard. Dwellings vary in quality from highly designed significant country homes to more modest homes and tend to feature more contemporary architectural styles in ranch style formats with wrap around verandas. Much of this development is constructed on formerly cleared paddocks which have been subdivided into one hectare rural-residential blocks by developer Jim Ramsey, featuring dense vegetation barriers delineating property boundaries. Views across the landscape are visible from the estate particularly along the ridge line. Post and wire fencing, heritage style green street lamps, narrow and rough roads, and open storm drains along streets used within the estate add to the rural and open landscape character of Batesford.

While most of the locality features cleared land used for cropping and grazing, the township features some significant native landscapes. This includes the Dog Rocks Reserve located west of the township and the Moorabool River and associated flood plain. Tree species are mixed featuring both natives like wattle and eucalyptus trees and imported species such as pines.

Home to approximately 953 people, Batesford consists of primarily low density separated housing dispersed throughout the township. Batesford has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas and lacks most significant community facilities or a traditional town centre with exception to a pub and tennis courts, located just across the border in the City of Greater Geelong.
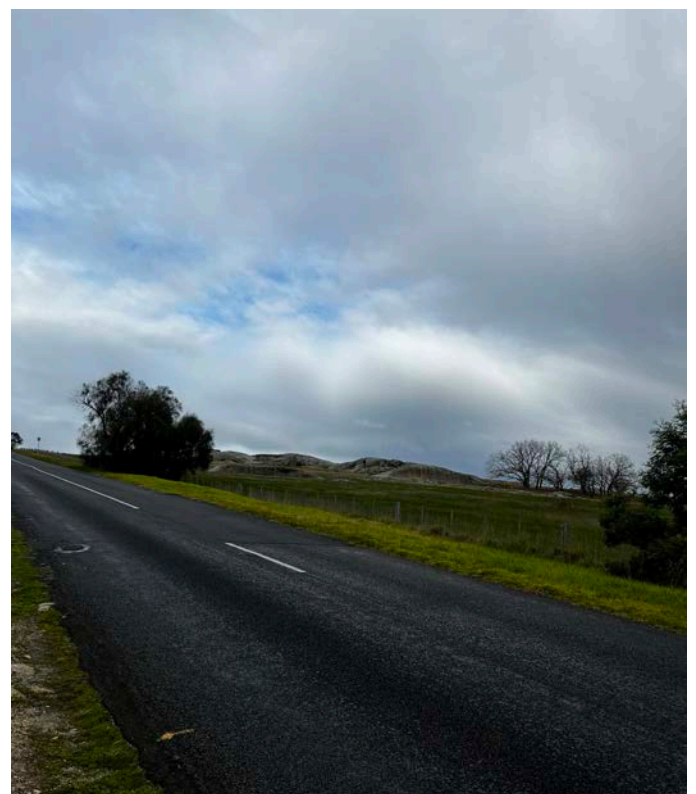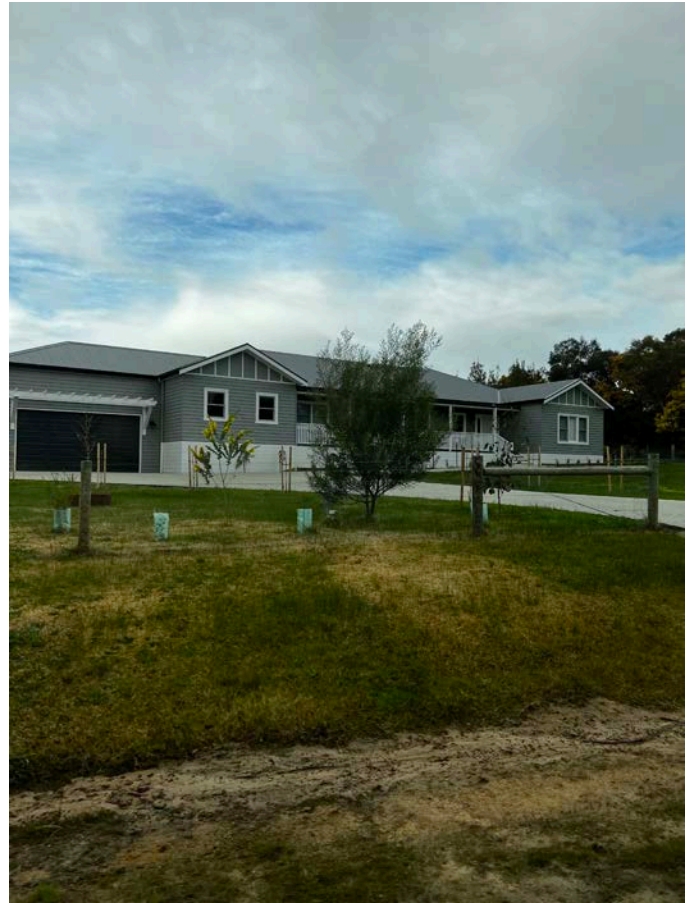


*Dog Rocks Reserve adjacent to Blackall Road.*

*Batesford streetscape and adjacent landscape along Blackall Road.*


*Residential development in Dog Rocks Estate.*


*Residential development in Dog Rocks Estate.*


*Heritage style green street lamps in Dog Rocks Estate.*

# 27. BERRYBANK
## LOCALITY

### INTRODUCTION:

Berrybank is a rural locality 50 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by the Hamilton Highway linking to Lismore to the west.  The Berrybank Windfarm is centred around this locality.



*Context map of Berrybank.*

### CHARACTER PROFILE:

The majority of the residents of Berrybank are within the municipal  boundary of Corangamite Shire. Berrybank is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. The locality is home to the Berrybank Wind Farm which will consist of 43 turbines once completed. Berrybank has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has limited significant community facilities within Golden Plains Shire.

# 28. CAMBRIAN HILL
## LOCALITY

**INTRODUCTION:**

Cambrian Hill is a locality located 8 kilometres south of Ballarat near the Golden Plains Shire border with the City of Ballarat. The locality offers a rural lifestyle for its residents. The locality is bisected by Colac-Ballarat Road, a major transport route linking Cambrian Hill to Ballarat and nearby Napoleons.
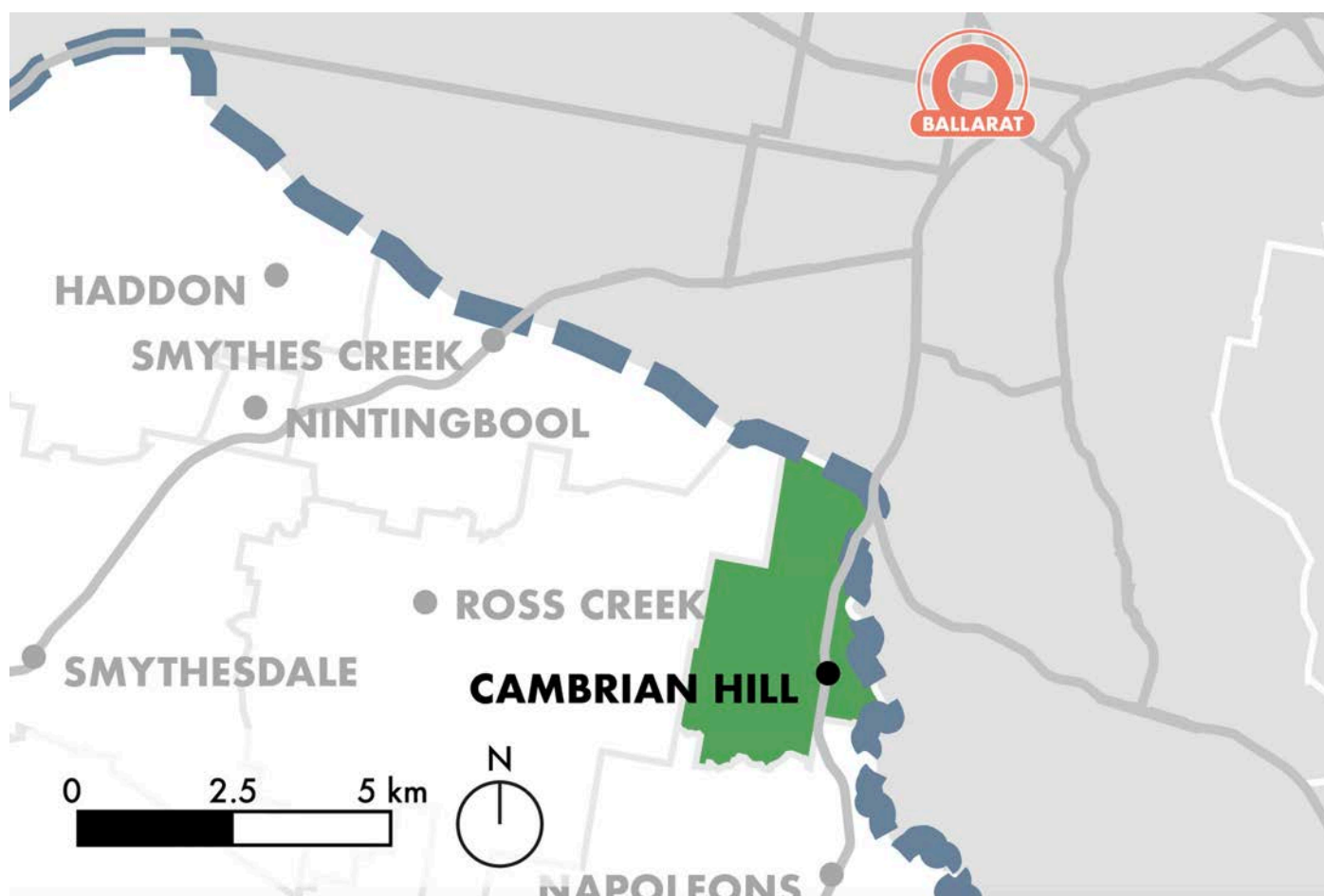


*Context map of Cambrian Hill.*

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT:**

Cambrian Hill was named by the Welsh miners who settled there. Welsh settlers were drawn to the area naming it Cambrian Hill, from the word 'Cambria' which is the Welsh name for Wales. In the mid-1860's Cambrian Hill was described as a hamlet with agriculture, grazing alluvial mining and three hotels. A school was opened in 1867. After 1890 the population fell from 1163 in 1871 to 207 in 1891. Because Cambrian Hill is so close to Napoleons it didn't grow as a town.

Today, it has a rural character, with three sites along Colac-Ballarat Road illustrating its past. These are two mining sites and the former Black Lead Uniting Church and Hall of 1862 and 1913, which are protected in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and Victorian Heritage Register. A War Memorial & Avenue of Honour have been identified as places of potential heritage significance.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Approximately 162 people currently live in Cambrian Hill. Private land is mainly used for agriculture and private dwellings consisting of low-density residential developments distributed in small clusters along Colac-Ballarat Road and adjoining streets. A 3000 dwelling development has been proposed for the locality offering an upmarket country lifestyle in close proximity to Ballarat. Cambrian Hill does not possess the typical urban built form of a compact rural town. Lacking a dominant main street or continuous street strip development, the  locality is characterised by a small amount of very dispersed structures throughout Cambrian Hill. While Cambrian Hill has no community facilities, it is located close to Haddon, Smythesdale and Ballarat which function as service centres in the region.

The Cambrian Hill landscape is primarily flat wide-open and unencumbered land bound on the eastern border by the Colac-Ballarat Road and urban development to its north. Though largely cleared, Cambrian Hill does feature some remnant native vegetation, while imported species particularly ornamental pear, pine and poplar tree species can be found in private gardens as well as windbreak trees on larger private properties.

future development should build on the unique features of Cambrian hill including the retention of remnant native trees, space to plant large canopy trees, retain views to mt Buninyong and enhance the Yarrowee River environs.

Cambrian Hill has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas. There are, however, plans to sewer the town which would enable growth and higher density development throughout the locality.
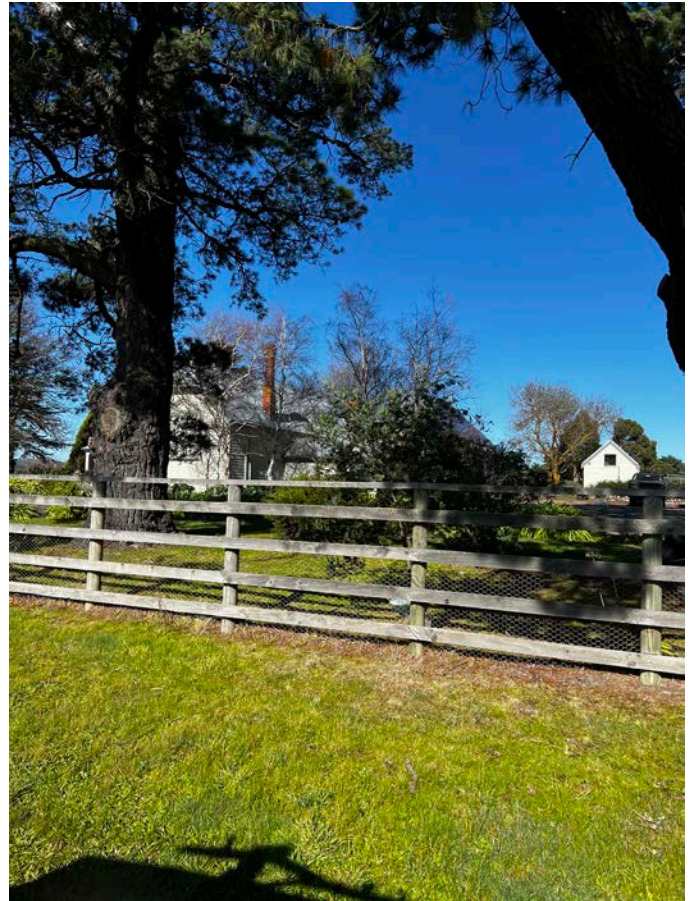


*Residential development in Cambrian Hill.*
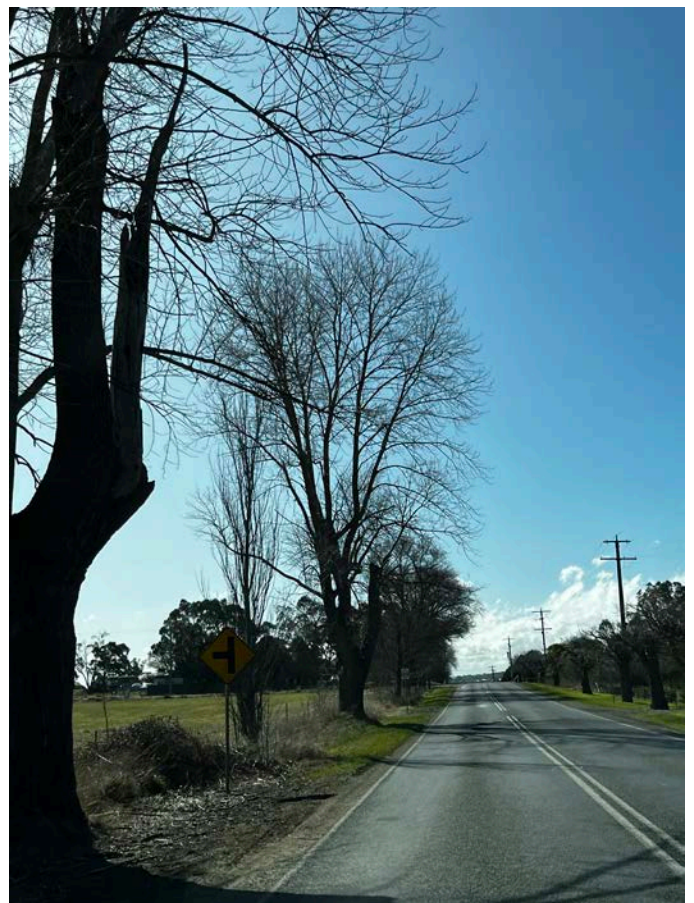


*Cambrian Hill streetscape and Avenue of Honour.*

# 29. CRESSY
## LOCALITY

## INTRODUCTION:

Cressy is a locality situated 38 kilometres north of Colac, near the intersection of the Colac-Ballarat Road and the Hamilton Highway in the south-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The township of Cressy is mostly within Colac Otway Shire with a small portion in Golden Plains Shire and Corangamite Shire. Cressy is also on the Geelong to Ararat rail line.



*Context map of Cressy.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The first European to settle in the area was a Frenchman named Jean d'Auvergnay who named the site after his Crecy in France, where he was born.
In 1905 some of the large holdings were subdivided which led to a large growth in the population.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The majority of residents in the locality of Cressy are within the municipal boundary of Colac Otway Shire, with small populations with Corangamite Shire and Golden Plains Shire. The area within Golden Plains Shire is mostly cleared agricultural land.

Agriculture is an integral part of the local rural economy and the character of the locality. The township centre has several services including a playground and public toilet.

Within Golden Plains Shire, Cressy has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas.

# 30. DEREEL
## LOCALITY

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## INTRODUCTION:

Dereel is a small rural township located 33 kilometres south of Ballarat in the central region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Colac-Ballarat Road, linking the township to Enfield to the north and Corindhap to the south. The road also connects to the Midland Highway providing access to Ballarat. Streets in Dereel are narrow and, despite being sealed, tend to be rough, contributing to the rural feel of the township.



*Context map of Dereel.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Dereel's early settlement was supported by timber cutting, gold mining and grazing. Gold was found in the Rokewood district in 1855. No special rush in Dereel is recorded, but settlement was sufficient by 1864 for a school to open. Mining continued beyond 1900, but by the 1930s the population fell to about 100 people and the school was closed. It was reopened in 1959 when local parents added a room to the memorial hall but closed after 1970 when the attendance was 13 pupils. The number of churches also fell from two to nil.

The only places in Dereel in the Heritage Overlay are specimen eucalyptus trees, while mining remains at Pinchgut Gully are in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. The concrete Dereel Soldiers Memorial Hall of 1921 has been identified as a potential heritage place, though the scattered timber Victorian houses have not.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Dereel is a local centre serving the community and commercial needs of the immediate residents. Home to approximately 537 people, Dereel consists of primarily low-density semi-rural dwellings distributed in two dispersed clusters along Colac-Ballarat Road. The Dereel landscape consists of primarily undulating land with some areas that are wide-open and unencumbered with some remnant vegetation and other areas that are heavily vegetated featuring native species. Imported species such as pine trees can also be found throughout the township. The Dereel Swamp is a key landscape feature. The flora, fauna and geology of the swamp and surrounding bushland is very significant, acting as a valuable regional and environmental asset of the town. Dereel has been identified as a high bushfire risk area, limiting residential expansion. Though Dereel lacks a traditional town centre, it does feature some community facilities including Dereel Hall (Skate facility and kick-about area) and a CFA building. Dereel has access to reticulated electricity and water but does not have access to sewerage or gas.



*Row of mailboxes.*



*Dereel Mens Shed.*



*Dereel streetscape and surrounding native landscape.*



*Dereel Soldiers Memorial Hall.*

# 31. DURDIDWARRAH:
## LOCALITY

## INTRODUCTION:

Durdidwarrah is a small rural locality, 40 kilometres north-west of Geelong and 42 kilometres south-east of Ballarat in the eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Geelong-Ballan Road, a non-urban arterial road that links the town to the City of Geelong and regional centre Ballan, as well as the nearby townships of Beremboke and Mount Wallace to the north and Anakie to the south. Slate Quarry Road, a local road, also links the township to the Midland Highway, offering access to Ballarat to the north-west.
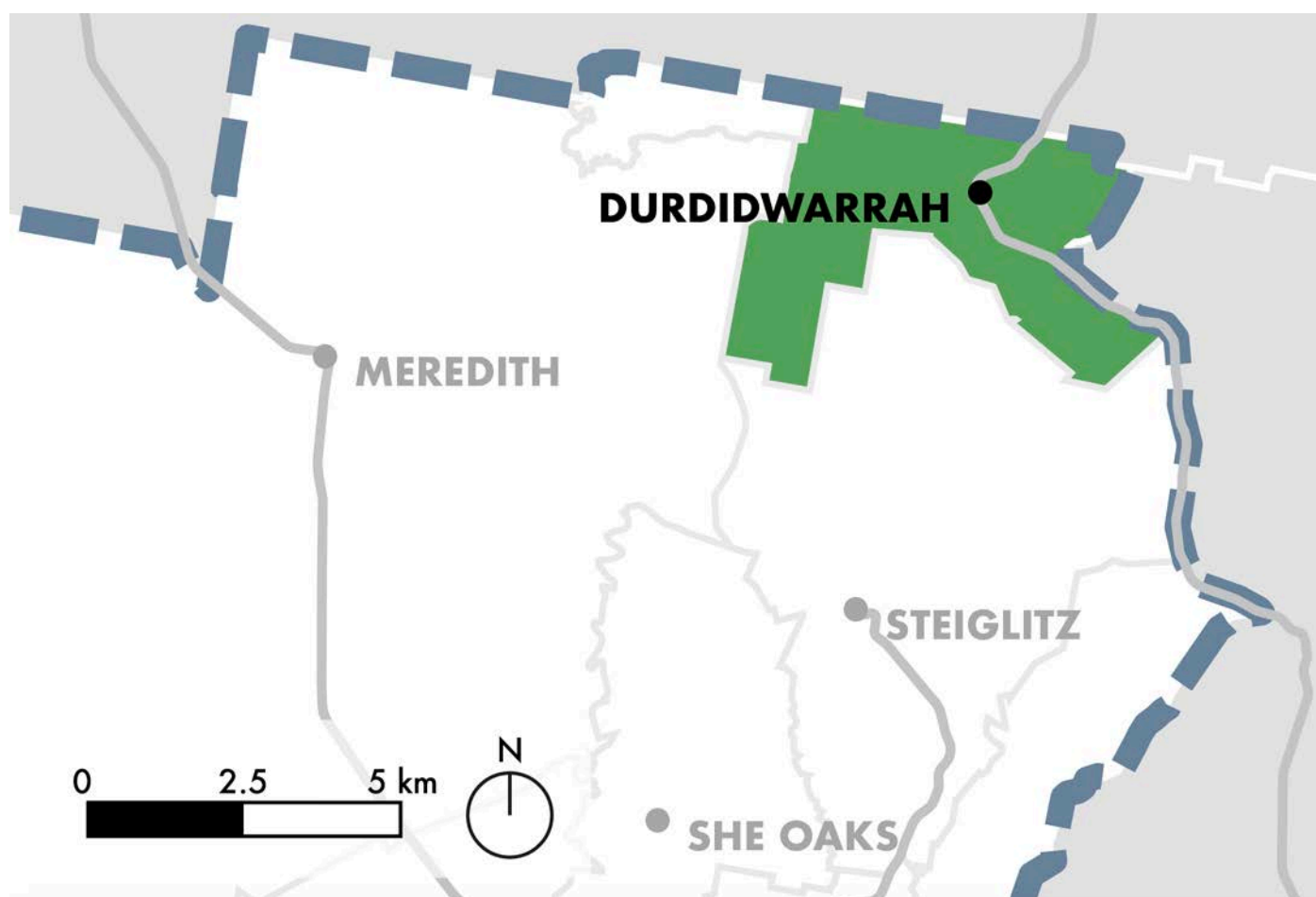


*Context map of Durdidwarrah.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Durdidwarrah township area was originally occupied for sheep grazing by the Von Stieglitz family. This holding known as Burnt Station formed the northern section of the pastoral run Durdidwarrah, which was taken up in 1842 by Charles von Stieglitz.

A survey commissioned by the Geelong Water Commission in 1862 identified the Stony Creek catchment area as being a suitable site to provide a permanent source of water to the emerging colonial settlement of Geelong. The reservoir system was constructed over three stages beginning in 1870 until 1919 to provide a permanent water source to the emerging colonial settlement of Geelong. Reservoir No.1 featured an earthen embankment across

Stony Creek to form the water storage dam, a large prefabricated cast-iron outlet tower. A Pinus radiata (Monterey Pine) plantation, was established around its south and west sides in the early 20th century to protect the catchment area.

The two earliest reservoirs, the former caretaker's residence, timber workers hut and maintenance sheds are protected in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and the Heritage Overlay. To their west is agricultural land.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Durdidwarrah is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography to the west and dense native vegetation surrounding the Upper Stony Creek Reservoir to the east. Home to approximately 8 people, Durdidwarrah consists of a small number of low-density houses dispersed along Slate Quarry Road and Geelong-Ballan Road. Durdidwarrah has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.

# 32. DURHAM LEAD:
## LOCALITY

## INTRODUCTION:

Durham Lead is a small rural locality approximately 20 kilometres south of Ballarat in the northern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is bisected by Buninyong – Mt Mercer Road a non-urban arterial road that links the township to the Midland Highway and, by extension, to the city of Ballarat. Buninyong – Mt Mercer Road also provides access to the nearby townships of Garibaldi to the south and Buninyong to the north.
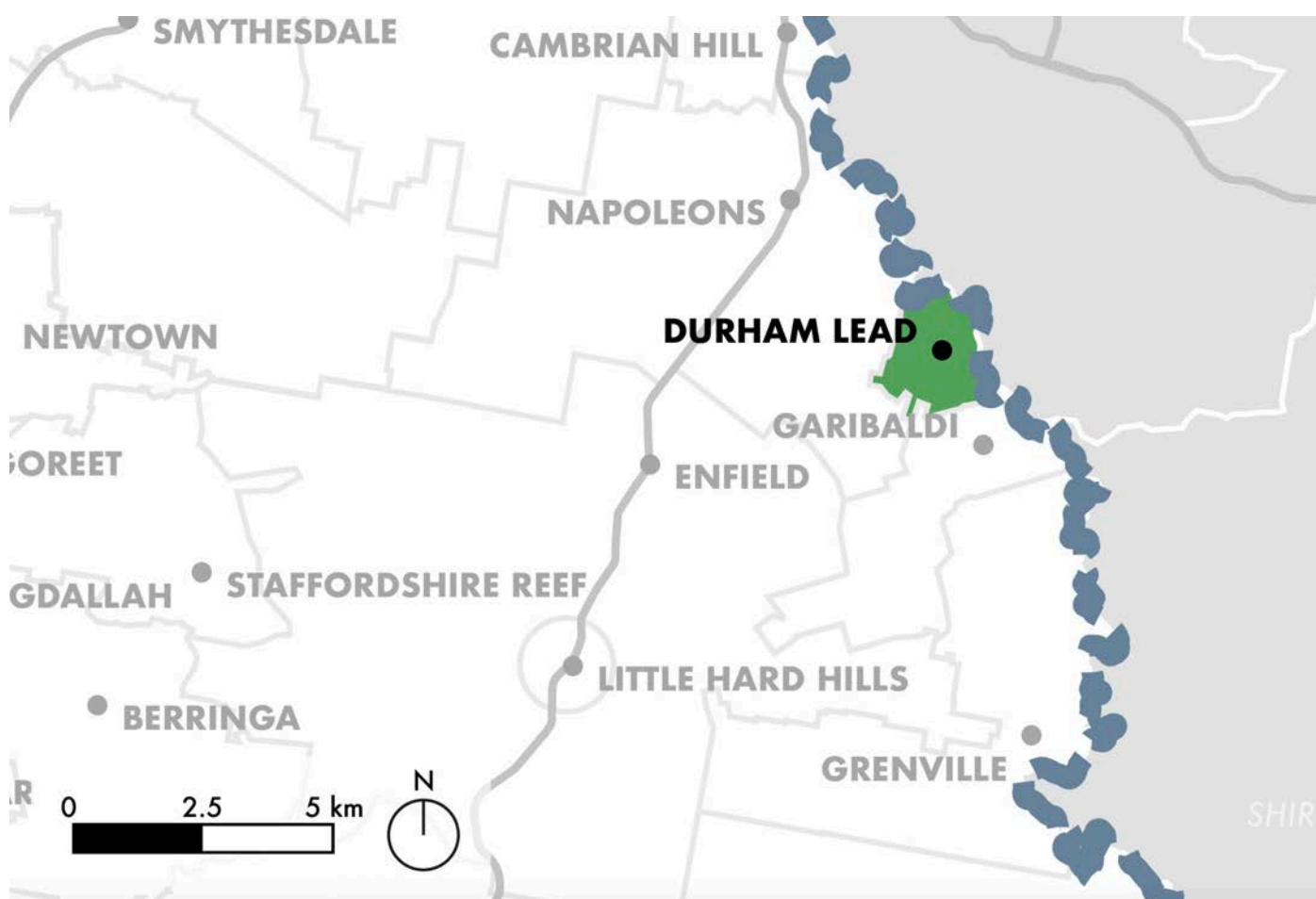


*Context map of Durham Lead.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Gold was discovered at Durham Lead in March 1857, and within a few months a hotel building was transported to the emerging township. Two large companies mined the area – the Duke of Northumberland Goldmining Company and the Pioneer Goldmining Company. Durham Lead township included a post office, a store, a draper and a butcher. The majority of the locality is located in the City of Ballarat, as are all of the many former mining sites. There are no identified heritage sites of any kind in the Golden Plains part of the locality.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Durham Lead is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and undulating topography. Durham Lead is home to approximately 388 people in both the Golden Plains Shire and City of Ballarat portions of the locality. Durham Lead consists of primarily low-density housing dispersed linearly along Buninyong-Mt Mercer Road and adjoining streets offering residents a country lifestyle within close proximity to Ballarat. The locality is also near the Durham Lead Bushland Reserve and Durham Lead Conservation Reserve, both featuring dense native vegetation offering an informal recreation space for residents and visitors. Durham Lead has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas and lacks any significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.

## INTRODUCTION:

Gheringhap is a locality located 15 kilometres north-west of Geelong in the south-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is bisected by the Midland Highway and a standard gauge railway, splitting the area into two parts, with some houses (rural-living style development) and agricultural development occurring to the south. The Midland Highway connects the area to Batesford to the east and Bannockburn to the north-west as well as regional centres Geelong and Ballarat.



*Context map of Gheringhap.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Gheringhap was first surveyed and given this name in 1843, when it was included in the Geelong Episcopalian parish by surveyor Robert Hoddle. By 1853 it was known as Eureka and sold along with the Eureka Hotel. The land was advertised as having a good position on the line of road to the diggings and the western district, with stores and garden plots.

The Gheringhap school was opened in 1858 and the railway line to Ballarat was opened in 1862. Until the turn of the century Gheringhap was recorded as having a school and two churches. The school closed in 1906. In 1913 the new rail line to Hamilton opened, which forked off of the Ballarat line in Gheringhap.

Two early houses are included in the Heritage

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The general topography of the area to the north of the railway line is flat up to approximately two to three kilometres north of the Midland Highway, after which the Moorabool River corridor creates a significant intrusion into the plain, with undulating valleys. To the south of the Midland Highway the land is generally flat and with minor variations in slope. The flat open plains are considered by the local community to be a defining feature of Gheringhap and the wider Golden Plains south-eastern region. Other identifiable features include a large ephemeral wetland located between the railway line and the Midland Highway. This wetland is known to flood during rainfall periods, providing water resources in the locality for many terrestrial fauna groups. There are also a number of major watercourses that traverse the Shire, and which largely shape the topography and environmental features of the area around Gheringhap. These include the Moorabool River (to the north-east of Gheringhap), Sutherland Creek, the Barwon River and Bruce's Creek watercourses (to the south-west of Gheringhap).

Gheringhap's small rural community of 157 people reside in exclusively low-density dwellings dispersed linearly along the Midland Highway and adjoining streets. In the past, land within the Gheringhap locality has been used for agricultural purposes, mainly broadacre sheep, cattle grazing and cropping. However, the area has been recently noted as having poor soil quality, meaning that most of the area is unsuitable for cropping agricultural activities. Over time there has also been an expansion into intensive animal industry such as poultry farming, with these activities generally located to the south of the Midland Highway, around McCurdys Road and Booleys Road. Gheringhap is also known as a key industrial site with a number of broiler farms. There is access to reticulated water and electricity in Gheringhap but not reticulated sewerage or gas and there are no community facilities or town centre.



*View of Gheringhap landscape from Midland Highway.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Happy Valley is a rural locality 28 kilometres west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Happy Valley Road and Linton-Piggoreet Road, both non-urban arterial roads that link the locality to Piggoreet in the east and Linton in the north-west. The roads also link to the Glenelg Highway via Pitfield-Scarsdale Road to the east and Linton-Naringhil Road to the west, connecting the locality to Ballarat.
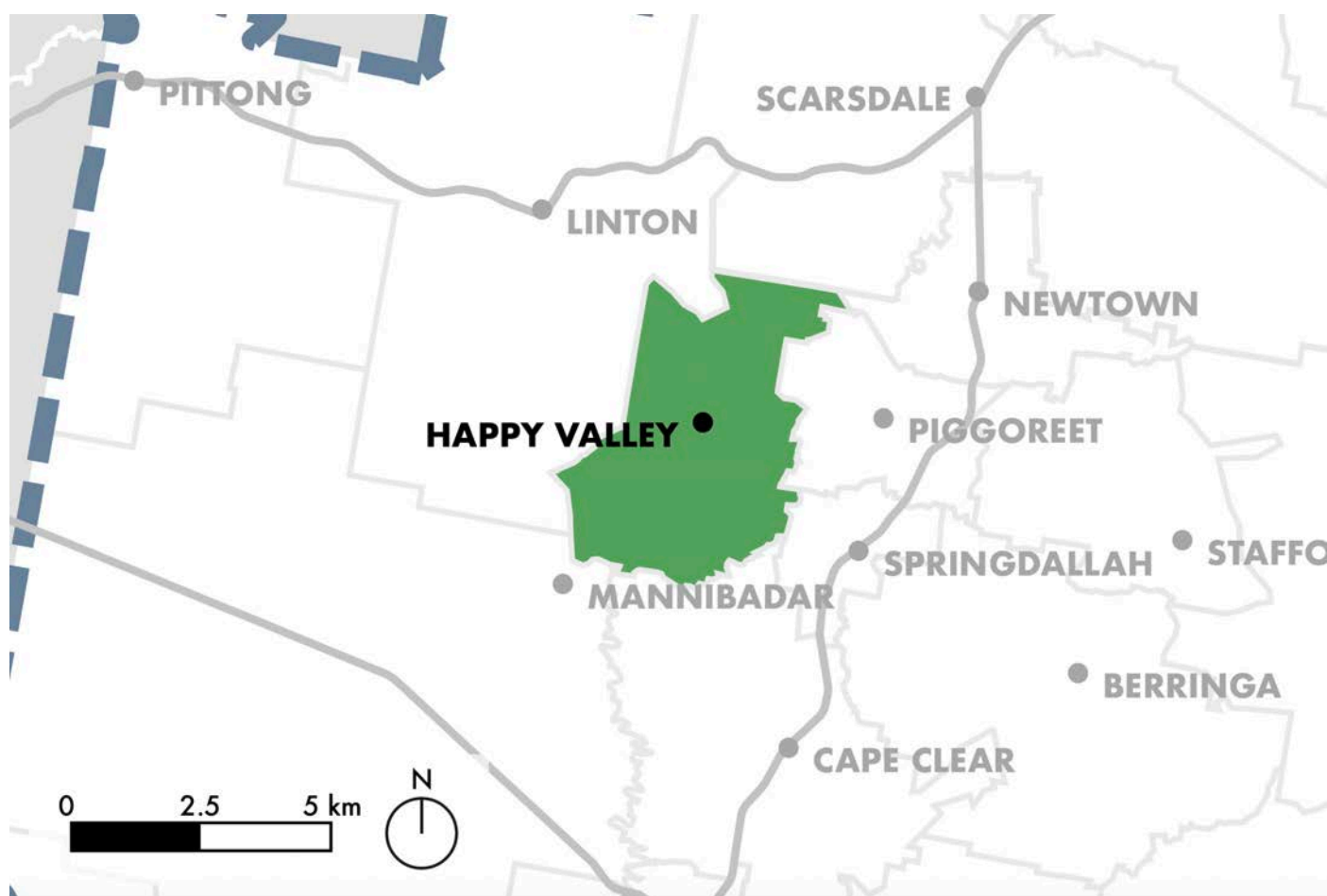


*Context map of Happy Valley.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Happy Valley is a gold mining township with its origins in the early gold rushes in the Woady Yaloak Valley. The 'Wardy Yallock' goldfields were prospected in the early 1850s, but intensive mining at Happy Valley probably began in 1854. It was one of the few gold towns in the area that experienced continual mining until the 1900s. Its school – at first named Lucky Woman's after a successful mine – was opened in 1860. By 1865 it had a post office, a police station, a branch bank and several hotels.

Gold yields declined in the early 1900s and a branch railway line through Happy Valley (1916-85) had little impact on the village. The school closed in 1940, and the church and the free library in the 1950s.

Heritage places that remain include a Standpipe

and Trough and a timber trestle bridge over the Springdallah Creek built in the 1880s, along with many former mining sites in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. The former Happy Valley State School of 1883 survives at Smiths Road but does not have formal heritage protection.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The north-west area of the Golden Plains Shire is recognised as an area that reflects a rural residential character, comprised of a large proportion of existing small lots which include old crown titles. Many of these lots have been developed for rural residential purposes and are identified as rural properties. 58 people live in Happy Valley in predominantly low-density dwellings distributed linearly along Happy Valley Road and adjoining streets. The township has no traditional formation of settlement with few buildings including the former Happy Valley State School, some farming mullock heaps and State Forest to its north and south. The landscape consists of both cleared land and dense native vegetation across an undulating topography. Happy Valley has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities.

## INTRODUCTION:

Hesse is a small rural locality 43 kilometres north-west of Geelong and 58 kilometres south of Ballarat near the southern boundary of the Golden Plains Shire. The area is serviced by the Hamilton Highway, linking the locality to the City of Geelong and the nearby townships of Inverleigh to the east and Barunah Plains to the west and Barunah Park to the north. The road also connects to Colac-Ballarat Road, providing access to Ballarat to the north.
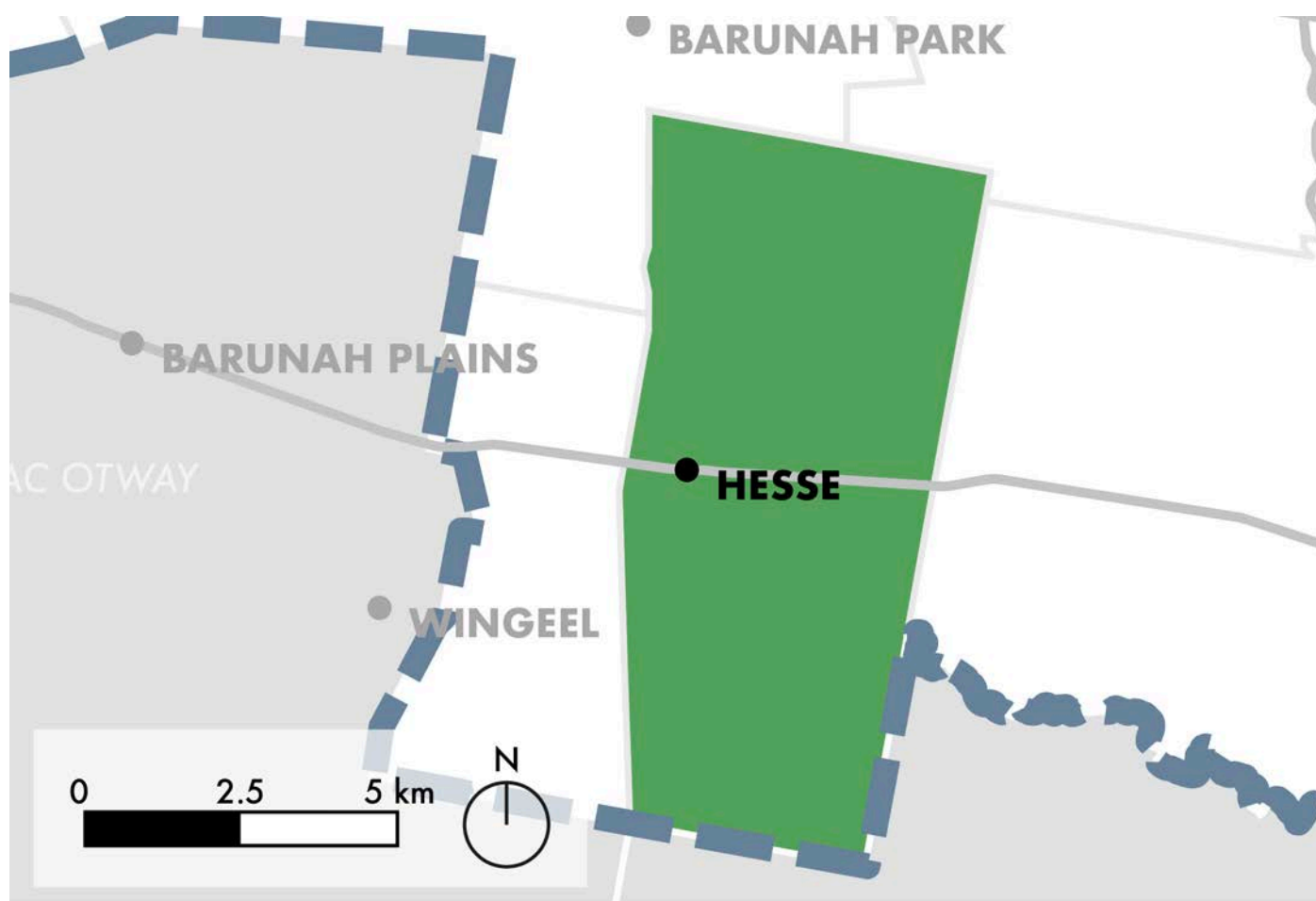


*Context map of Hesse.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Hesse is an agricultural area that contains the Barunah Plains Homestead heart of that pastoral run. The pastoral run was first established in the late 1830s and was first known as the Long Water Hole run, later Warracbarunah. In the 1840s the run was held by James Austin, and then from 1851 by Thomas and Philip Russell with their cousin John Simson. The Barunah Plains Homestead was built in 1868 for Thomas Russell and extended several times. The Homestead, outbuildings and garden are in the Victorian Heritage Register.

In 1854, the Barunah Plains run was noted as ideal as a sheep run but poorly suited for agriculture. Despite this, the Soldier Settlement Commission purchased half of the run in 1949 and subdivided it for small-scale farming.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Hesse remains a primarily agricultural area and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 17 people, Hesse consists of a scattering of exclusively low-density housing. While lacking a traditional town centre, the Barunah Plains Homestead, a popular and historic wedding venue is in the locality. Additionally, the popular annual Beyond The Valley (BTV) music festival has been relocated to a new site in Hesse in 2022. Hesse has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities.

# 36. ILLABROOK
## LOCALITY

## INTRODUCTION:

Illabrook is a small rural locality located approximately 34 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire, on the Illabrook Creek. The area is serviced by Cape Clear-Rokewood Road, a non-urban arterial road linking Illabrook to nearby Cape Clear to the north-west and Rokewood Junction to the south-east.
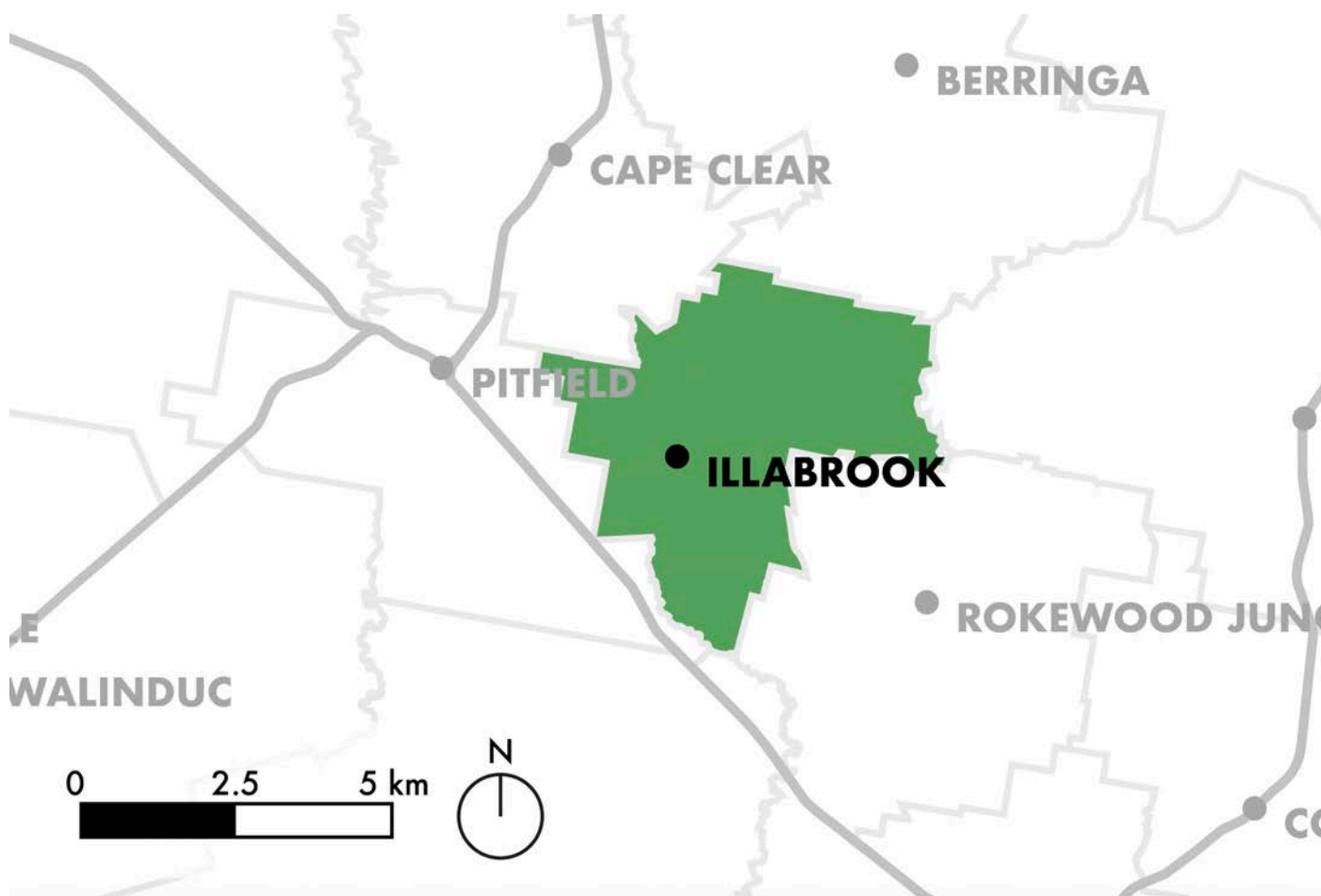


*Context map of Illabrook.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Gold was discovered at Illabarook on the Bulldog diggings in 1855, and the area was known as Bulldog until 1874. It is on the Illabarook Creek, and it is thought that the name was derived from an Aboriginal word describing a fly. A school was opened in 1861 and a post office was opened in 1862. Mining declined during the 1860s but was reactivated in the mid-1890s. A new village evolved with a public hall, hotel, mechanics' institute, churches and a recreation reserve.

After the deep lead mining companies closed around 1910, Illabrook relied on agriculture. During 1911-53 a railway from Newtown to Cressy passed through Illabarook, with associated tree plantings remaining. The only surviving civic building to survive is the 1957 Illabarook and Rokewood Junction Memorial Hall, which is of potential heritage significance.

A number of former mining sites are in the Victorian Heritage Register. Not yet identified as potential heritage places are a timber church and hall, and a former timber schoolhouse, which stand next to each other at 959 and 965 Cape Clear-Rokewood Road marking the former centre of the township.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Illabrook is home to approximately 18 people and is characterised as a small community in a rural living area with close connections to the surrounding farming sector land use activities. The residential area represents a small rural community within the broader area of agricultural land. Housing stock is primarily made up of low-density dwellings in a mix of architectural styles distributed linearly along Cape Clear-Rokewood Road and adjoining streets. The Illabrook landscape is primarily undulating wide-open and unencumbered grassy land featuring remnant native vegetation. The Bulldog Historic Area is a significant landscape feature in the locality as are the Dereel Plantation and Illabrook Rail Line Nature Conservation reserves. Illabrook has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no traditional town centre or any significant community facilities with exception to the surviving Illabrook and Rokewood Junction Memorial Hall.
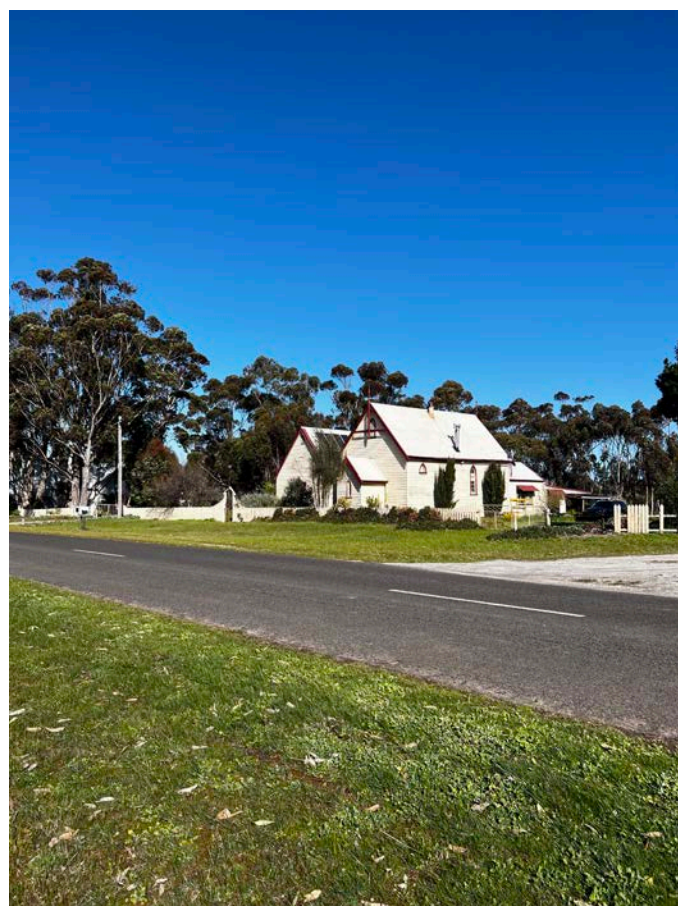


*Illabrook and Rokewood Junction Memorial Hall.*



*Agricultural land use in Illabrook.*

# 37. MANNIBADAR
## LOCALITY

## INTRODUCTION:

Mannibadar is a rural locality 33 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Linton-Naringhil Road, a non-urban arterial road linking the township to Linton in the north and Happy Valley in the north-east. The road also links to the Glenelg Highway, connecting Mannibadar to Ballarat in the north-east.
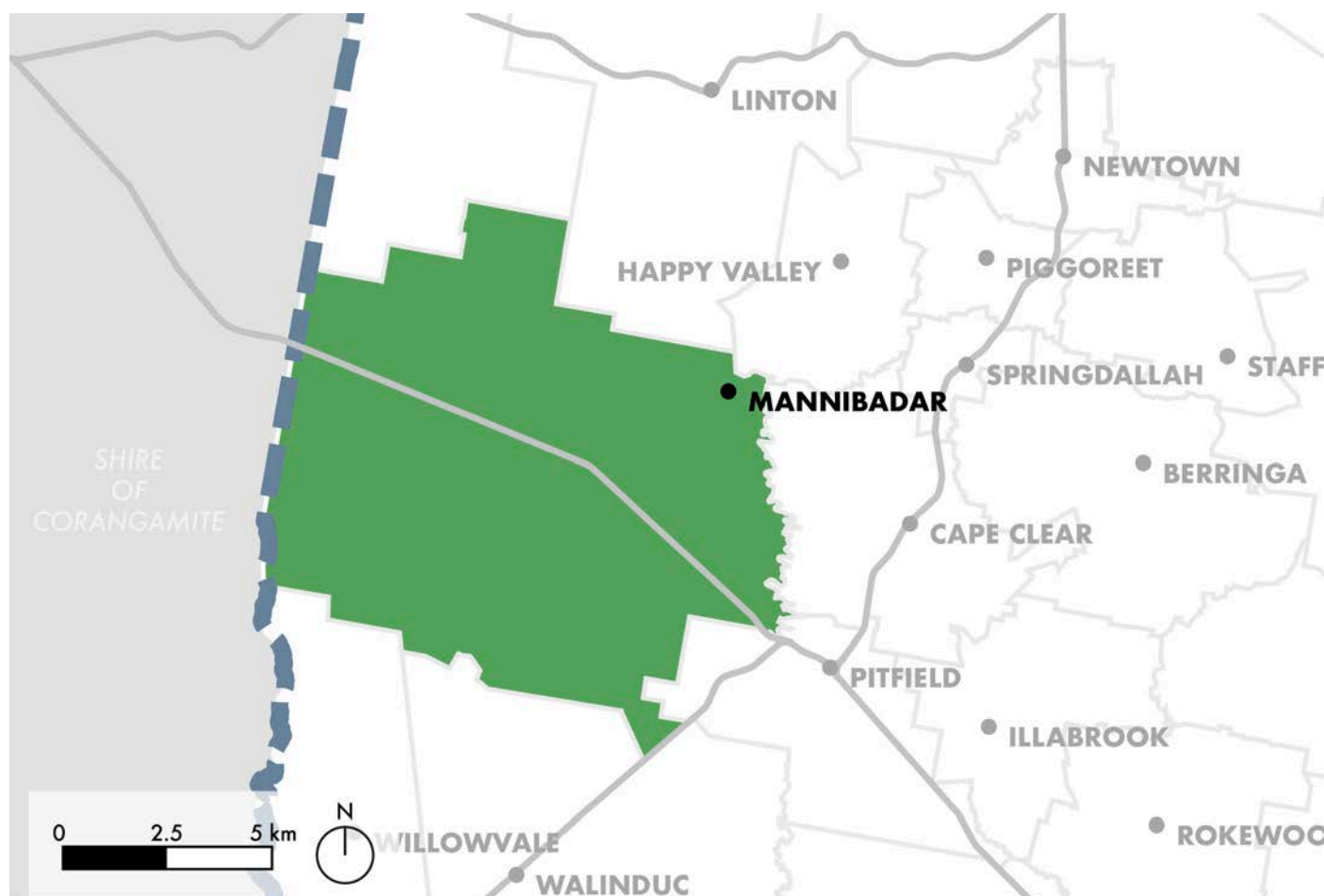


*Context map of Mannibadar.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Much of Mannibadar was once the Emu Hill run, comprising 15,000 acres taken up by Joseph Linton in the late 1830s. The Emu Hill Estate was established by Scottish pioneer, David Clarke. The earliest part of the associated homestead, which is in the Heritage Overlay, was built in the 1860s.

The western part of Mannibadar was part of the Mt Bute pastoral estate. In 1921, 174 allotments were purchased by the Federal Government Land Board from the Mt Bute Station. Over the proceeding years, families who had arrived in the area to take up small farms as part of the Soldier Settlement Scheme raised funds with the view to provide a community facility to serve the growing population. A timber hall was relocated to the township and served as the principal public meeting place and the local school for several years. This hall consists of the original

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section of the Mannibadar Soldiers Memorial Hall.

The second population wave to sweep the Mannibadar district was during the 1950s due to the Second World War Soldier Settlement Scheme. Returned soldiers and their families took up farming allotments subdivided from nearby estates such as Langi Willi and Emu Hill. A committee was formed in 1957-58 to raise funds to establish the main hall of the Soldiers Memorial Hall to be erected as a memorial to the soldiers of Mannibadar and district who had served in World War 1 & 2. It was formally opened in 1959 and is protected in the Heritage Overlay.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Mannibadar is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 76 people, Mannibadar consists of a scattering of primarily low-density housing. Mannibadar has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and does not have any significant community facilities or a traditional town centre with exception to the surviving Mannibadar Soldiers Memorial Hall, located on the Skipton-Rokewood Road.

# 38. MOUNT MERCER
## LOCALITY

**GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE**

## INTRODUCTION:

Mount Mercer is a locality directly west of Meredith, 33 kilometres south of Ballarat in the central north region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Shelford – Mt Mercer Road, a non-urban arterial road linking the township to Grenville in the north and Shelford in the south. The road also links to the Midland Highway, connecting Mount Mercer to Ballarat in the north.
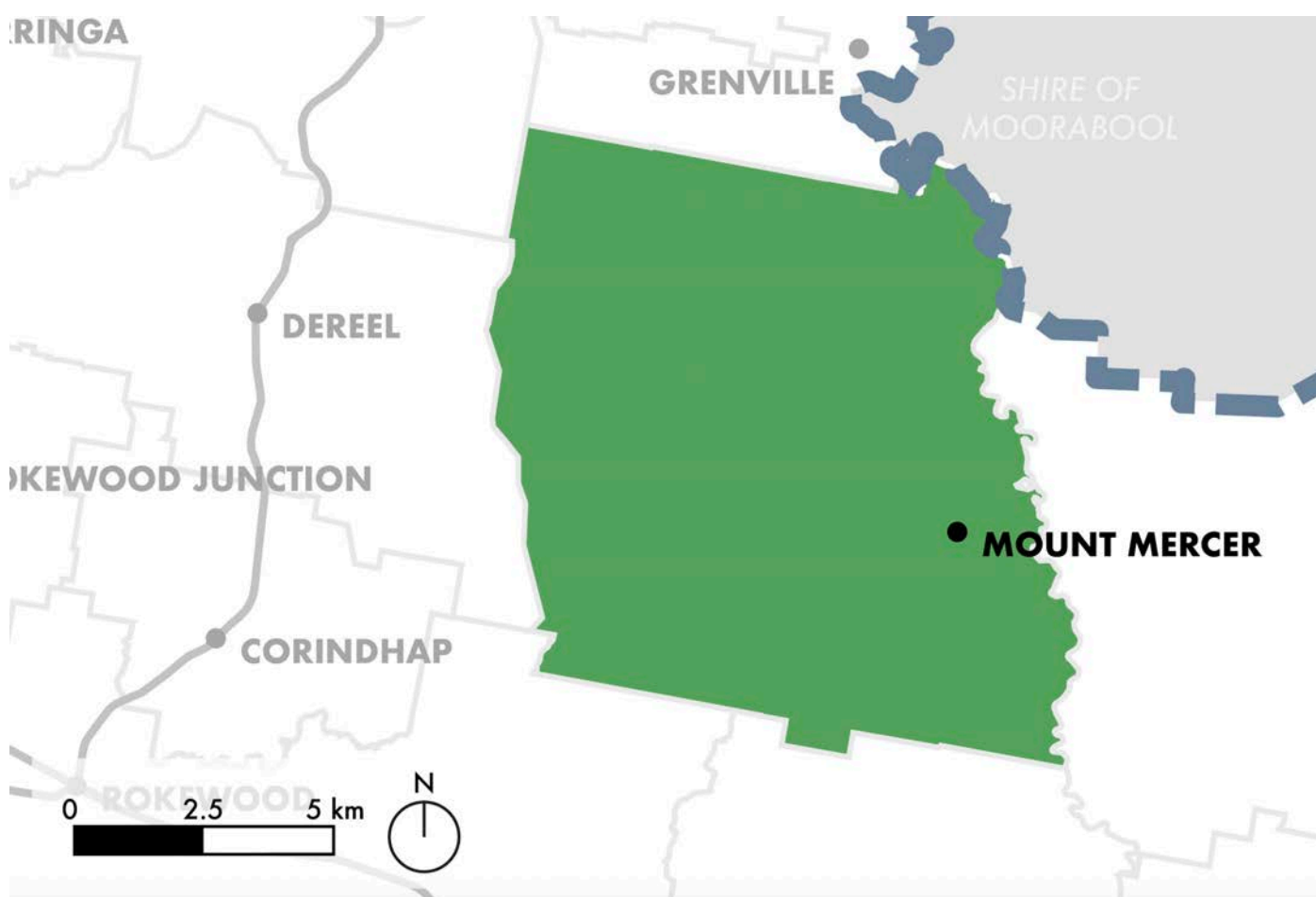


*Context map of Mount Mercer.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The main geographical feature of Mount Mercer is its extinct volcano, a scoria cone and crater which was a natural focus for early pastoral activities and source of the townships name. Placed on an early coach route to Buninyong, its first school was built in 1864. In 1871 its 73 residents lived in 10 dwellings. In 1892 the revival of gold mining raised this to a population of 120. Its school began, like many, as a church concern - in this case the Methodists - and closed after World War II. Today, the only place on the Heritage Overlay is the Leigh Grant Junction Road Bridge, at the south-eastern locality boundary, crossing into Meredith.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The Mount Mercer landscape is defined by the extinct volcano located nearby, formed on a broad lava shield. The rim of the cone is asymmetric, being higher around the south and open towards the north. The crater is 400 metres in diameter and stands approximately 75 metres above the surrounding landscape. This is a very clear example of a small scoria cone with a well-preserved and relatively deep circular crater.  Although there are many scoria mounds and cones in the Central Highlands, Mount Mercer is one of only a small number where the crater is very well preserved. Generally, the rest of the township is largely cleared, flat and features some remnant native vegetation. The Mount Mercer Nature Conservation Reserve can be found in the locality. It represents one of the largest grassland reserves in the Victorian Volcanic Plain. The reserve features a unique juxtaposition between the Leigh River, a major waterway, and a large, floristically significant grassland community. Currently, no visitor services exist in the reserve and access is limited to pedestrian access from Shelford-Mt Mercer Road. Land in Mount Mercer is largely dominated by agricultural land uses. Grazing is the predominant land use in the area, but more intensive agriculture such as cropping is also becoming prevalent. Western Plains Pork is located in Mount Mercer. Land is also used for energy production in the Mount Mercer Wind Farm which consists of 64 turbines producing a total installed capacity of 131 megawatts.

Home to approximately 71 people, Mount Mercer consists of a scattering of primarily low-density housing. Mount Mercer has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.

# 39. MORRISONS
## LOCALITY

**GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE**

## INTRODUCTION:

Morrisons is a rural locality 75 km west of Melbourne and 8 km north-east of Meredith. It is at the headwaters of the Moorabool River where it is joined by several creeks. The majority of the locality lies within Morrabool Shire, with only three properties within Golden Plains Shire.
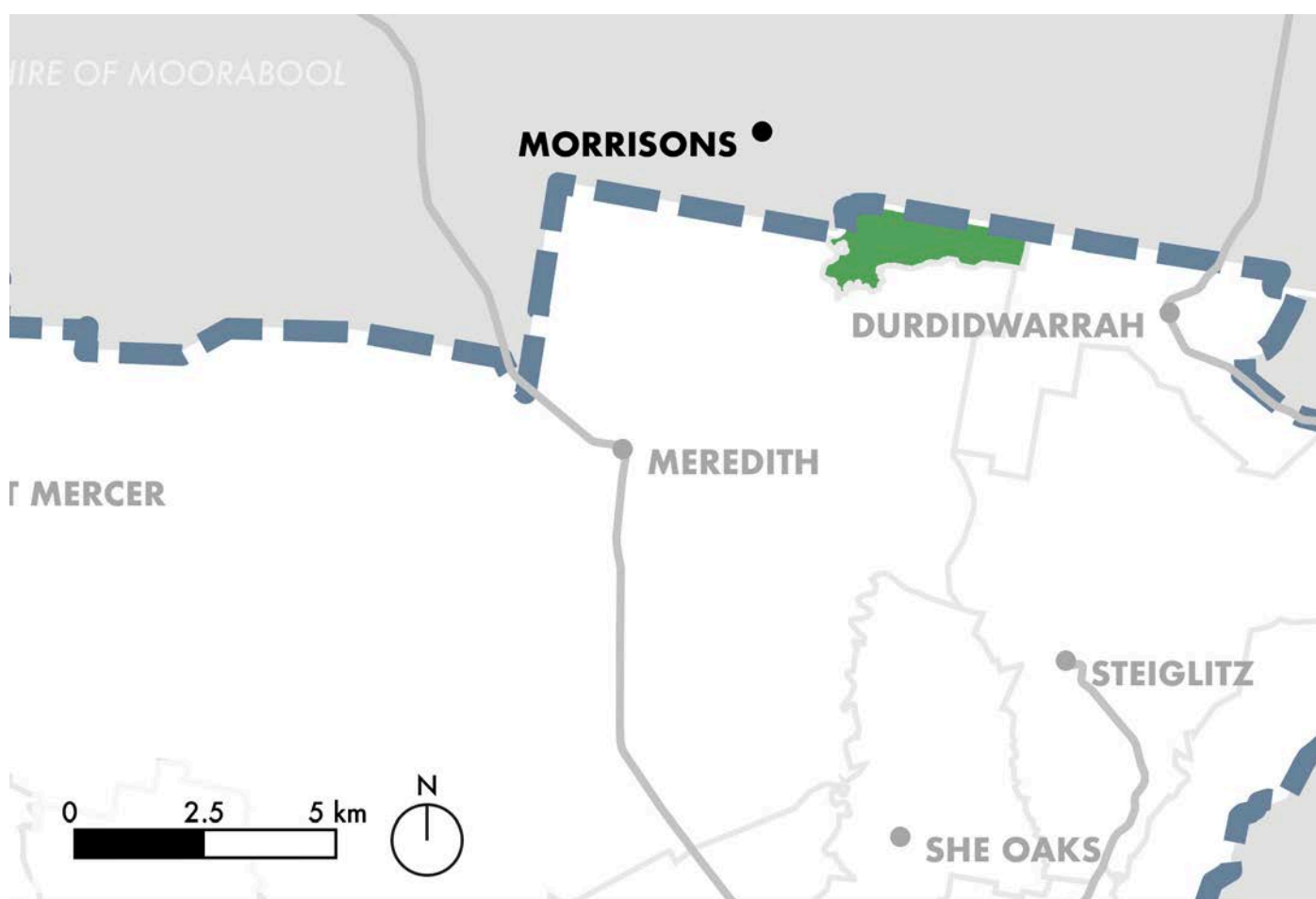


*Context map of Morrisons.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Morrisons was named after Hugh Morrison, the proprietor of two pastoral runs in the area during 1854-66.

Gold was found in the creeks around the town in 1856, leading to a rapid growth of the population.

In 1903 it was recorded as having a post office, two schools, two churches and four stores.

After the gold rush, the area was used for agriculture including livestock and dairies.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Within Golden Plains Shire, Morrisons is a small rural locality, consisting of only three properties that are used for agricultural purposes.

The residents are likely to use Meredith for services due to the close proximity.

Morrisons has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas.

# 40. NEWTOWN
## LOCALITY

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## INTRODUCTION:

Newtown is a locality approximately 23 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is bisected by Pitfield-Scarsdale Road, linking Linton to nearby Scarsdale to the north and Springdallah to the south. The road also connects to the Glenelg Highway, linking Newtown to Ballarat.



*Context map of Newtown.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Newtown developed as an extension to the settlement of Scarsdale in 1863, surrounded by it on three sides. At first it was called Newtown-Scarsdale then later shortened to Newtown. Newtown had its own post office and later a Presbyterian church which was generally thought to mark the boundary between Scarsdale and Newtown. There were also two hotels, several stores and a public hall. In 1890 a railway was opened through Newtown to Linton and Newtown became a railway junction when a line was constructed southwards to Cressy. The Linton line closed in 1985 and became a railway trail.

The 1871 Scarsdale State School, just within the current Newtown boundary, is in the Heritage Overlay, and a few mining sites are in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. The Nimmon's Railway timber trestle bridge, five Victorian houses and a shop that are places of potential significance.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, the north-west area of the Golden Plains Shire where Newtown is located is recognised as an area that reflects a rural residential character, comprised of a large proportion of existing small lots which include old crown titles. Many of these lots have been developed for rural residential purposes and identified as rural properties. 175 people live in Newtown in predominantly low-density dwellings distributed linearly along Pitfield-Scarsdale Road. The locality has no traditional town centre of its own and relies on Smythesdale as the main service centre. The landscape consists of both cleared land and some dense native vegetation across an undulating topography. Newtown has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities with exception of the primary school.

## INTRODUCTION:

Nintingbool is a locality approximately 11 kilometres south-west of Ballarat near the Golden Plains Shire border with the City of Ballarat. The locality is serviced by the Glenelg Highway, linking Nintingbool to nearby Smythes Creek to the north-east and Smythesdale to the south-west as well as the regional centre of Ballarat.



*Context map of Nintingbool.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Nintingbool had its origins in the Nintingbool pastoral run. Captain John Smythe took up Nintingbool run and homestead in 1838. In some cases all that is visible of former homesteads are tracks such as that on the Nintingbool run paddock and gate.

There was some mining activity in the area, as demonstrated by the Haddon Whim and Horse Puddler Site, which is in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Nintingbool is one of the Shire's smallest rural localities consisting of dispersed rural residential development. As there is no consolidated township within the locality, Nintingbool relies on Haddon and Smythesdale as main service centres. The area forms part of a rural lifestyle belt separating Ballarat from settlements such as Smythesdale. This provides strong commuting linkages into Ballarat for work and other services.

Home to approximately 176 people, Nintingbool is made up of predominantly low-density housing distributed in a dispersed cluster adjacent to the Glenelg Highway. The landscape consists of both cleared land and areas of dense native vegetation across an undulating topography. Additionally, the Woady Yaloak Creek runs through Nintingbool. Nintingbool has access to reticulated water and electricity but not reticulated sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities.



*View of Nintingbool landscape from Glenelg Highway.*



*Rural residential development.*



*View of Nintingbool landscape from Glenelg Highway.*

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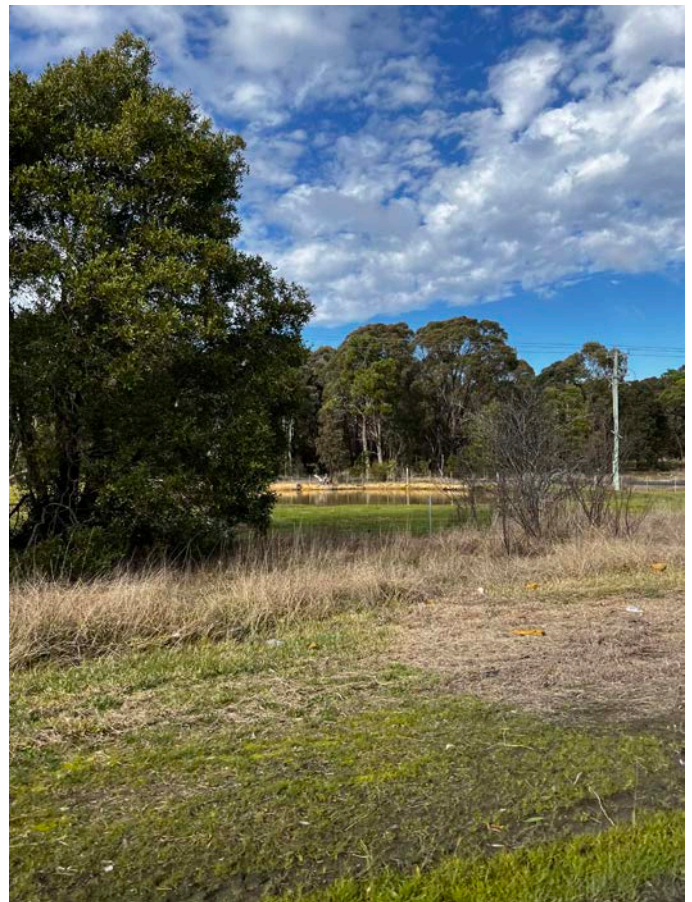
# 42. PIGGOREET
## LOCALITY

**GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE**

## INTRODUCTION:

Piggoreet is a rural locality and former gold mining village located 26 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the northern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by Pitfield-Scarsdale Road, a non-urban arterial road linking the locality to nearby Newtown to the north and Springdallah to the south. The road also links to the Glenelg Highway, connecting Piggoreet to Ballarat.
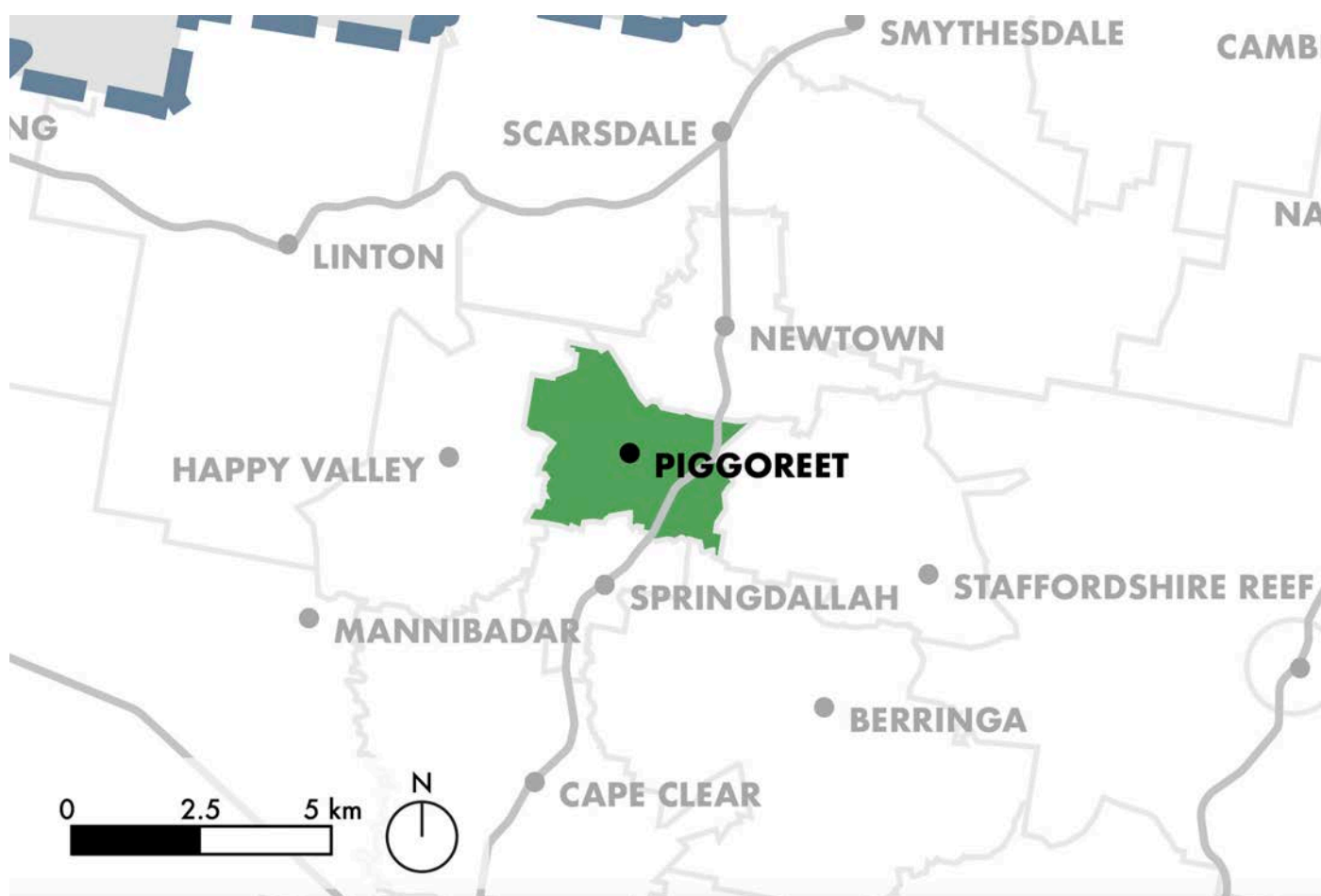


*Context map of Piggoreet*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Piggoreet Run, taken up in 1838 by pastoralists John James Barlow Smythe and Henry Gibb, was among the earliest district pastoral properties. In 1848, it was divided into East and West Piggoreet. The Piggoreet West Pre-emptive Right was applied for in 1853 and secured in 1854 by Matthew Hamilton Baird. The present Piggoreet West Homestead was established by David Clarke, pioneer Scottish pastoralist soon after 1854. The Homestead and bluestone outbuildings are in the Heritage Overlay.

Gold was found at Piggoreet in 1852 in a place known as Devil's Kitchen, a small gorge west of the village.By 1860 deep lead mining had extended eastwards from Happy Valley to Piggoreet, and numerous mines were worked until the late 1890s. The most productive period

ended in about 1880. Large mullock heaps mark the site of these mines today, many of which are in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. The mining industry started to give way to farming by the early 1870's.

A school was opened in 1863, and in 1865 there were five hotels, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The school was closed in 1924, and scarcely anything now shows where Piggoreet existed, apart from a monument to Thomas Burke, the Smythedale bank manager, who was murdered in 1867.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Piggoreet is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and undulating topography. The locality does feature some areas of dense native vegetation in the Clarkesdale Bushland Reserve to the east and Linton Nature Conservation Reserve to the north-west. The historic Devil's Kitchen is an impressive geological reserve in Piggoreet and is a spectacular natural amphitheatre of basalt columns which have been formed by the course of the Woady Yaloak River cutting through the densely vegetated valley over time.  A couple of Peregrine Falcon nests can be spotted in the cliff face across from the parking area. Home to approximately 41 people, Piggoreet consists of a scattering of primarily low-density housing. Piggoreet has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.

## INTRODUCTION:

Pitfield and Pitfield Plains are rural localities 36 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. They were once part of the southern gold fields along the Woady Yaloak River valley, forming part of an arc spanning from Scarsdale to Rokewood. The area is serviced by Rokewood-Skipton Road, Pitfield-Scarsdale Road and Lismore-Scarsdale Road, all non-urban arterial roads linking the locality to nearby Cape Clear to the north, Wallinduc to the southwest and Rokewood to the south-east. Pitfield-Scarsdale Road also links to the Glenelg Highway, connecting Pitfield to Ballarat.
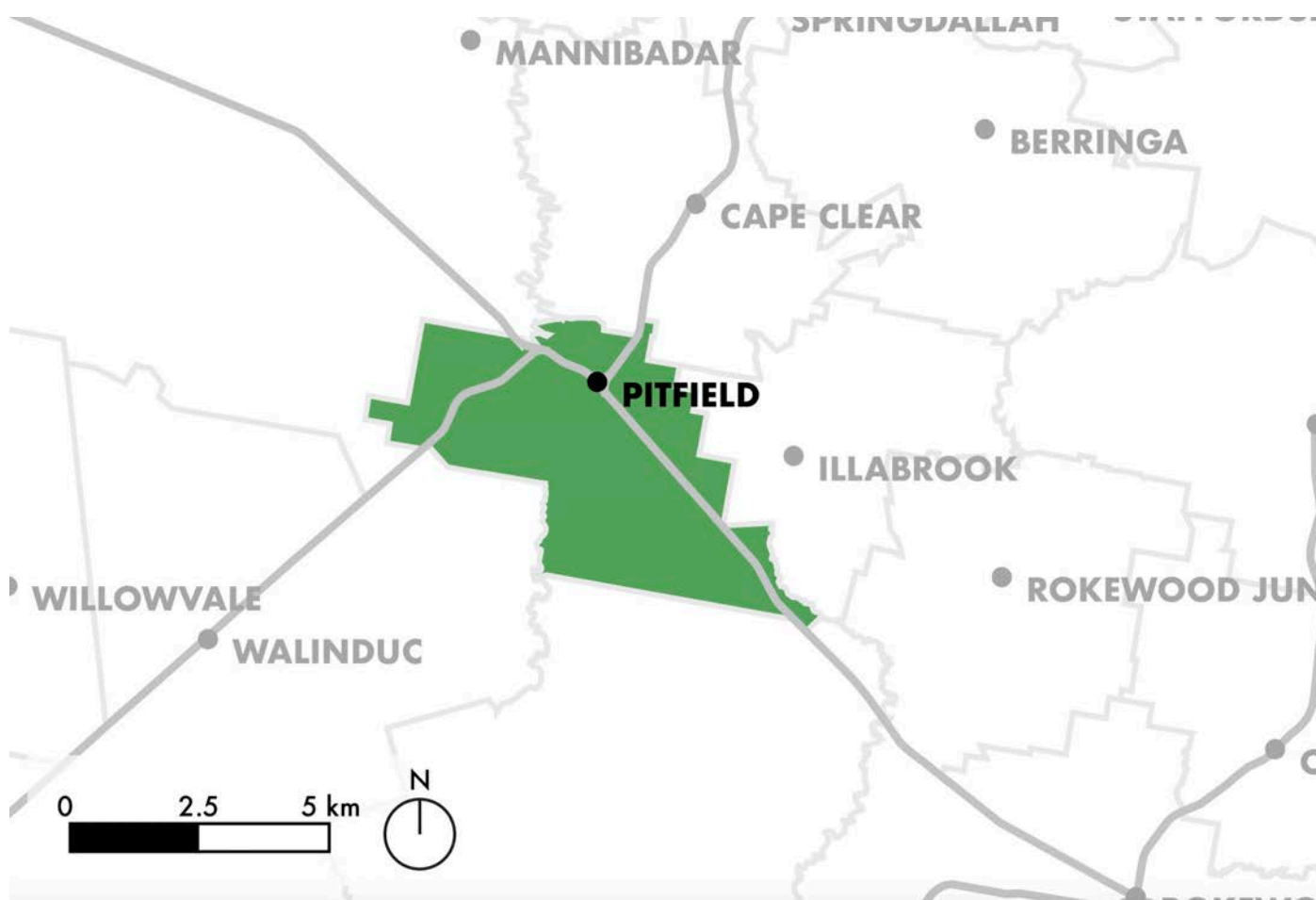


*Context map of Pitfield.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Gold was discovered at Pitfield in 1855. An Anglican school was opened in 1858 and by 1865 it had a post office and a hotel. In 1872 cast-iron mileposts were installed on Pitfield-Scarsdale Road at the intersection with Cape Clear-Rokewood Road. The gold mining declined within about ten years and the school closed in 1872, and the police station building was relocated to Cape Clear in 1874. Almost the sole surviving element of the township are the mile-posts, which are in the Victorian Heritage Register. There are also many mining sites in the southern part of the locality, in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Pitfield is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 51 people, Pitfield consists of a scattering of primarily low-density housing dispersed throughout the locality. Pitfield has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Pittong is a small rural locality located 34 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The town is serviced by the Glenelg Highway, linking the township to nearby Linton to the east and Skipton to the west. The Glenelg Highway also links Pittong to Ballarat. Pittong is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and undulating topography. Commercial land use also includes the Suvo Strategic Minerals Pittong Operation, the only hydrous processing kaolin plant in Australia. Home to approximately 14 people, Pittong consists of a scattering of exclusively low-density housing. Pittong has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.
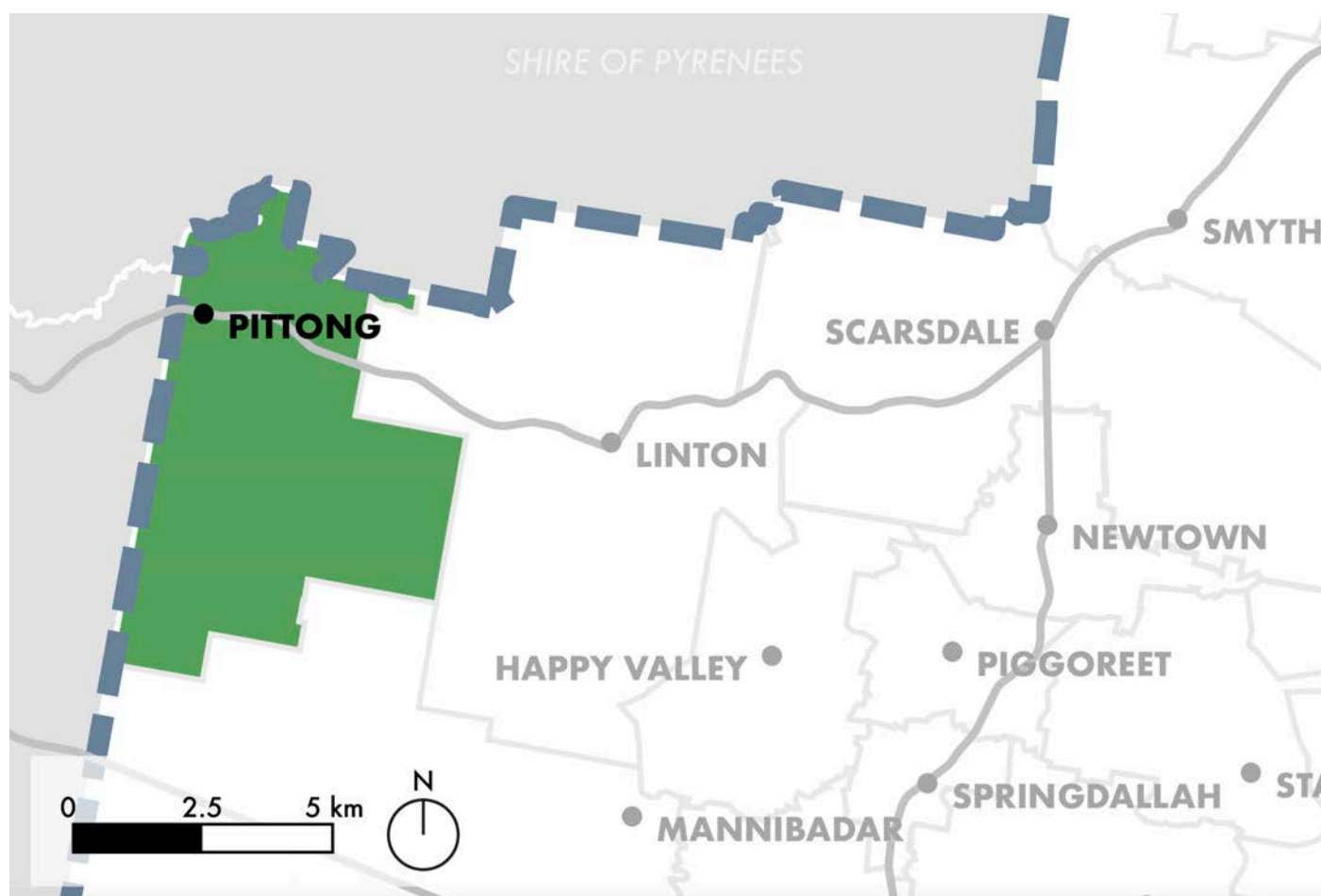


*Context map of Pittong.*

# 45. ROKEWOOD JUNCTION
## LOCALITY

## INTRODUCTION:

Rokewood Junction is a locality 35 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the central north-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Dereel-Rokewood Junction Road and Cape Clear-Rokewood Road, linking to nearby Illabrook to the west and Dereel to the east. Rokewood Junction is also bound by Rokewood-Skipton Road to the south. Streets in Rokewood Junction are sealed however narrow, and informal adding to the rural feel of the locality.
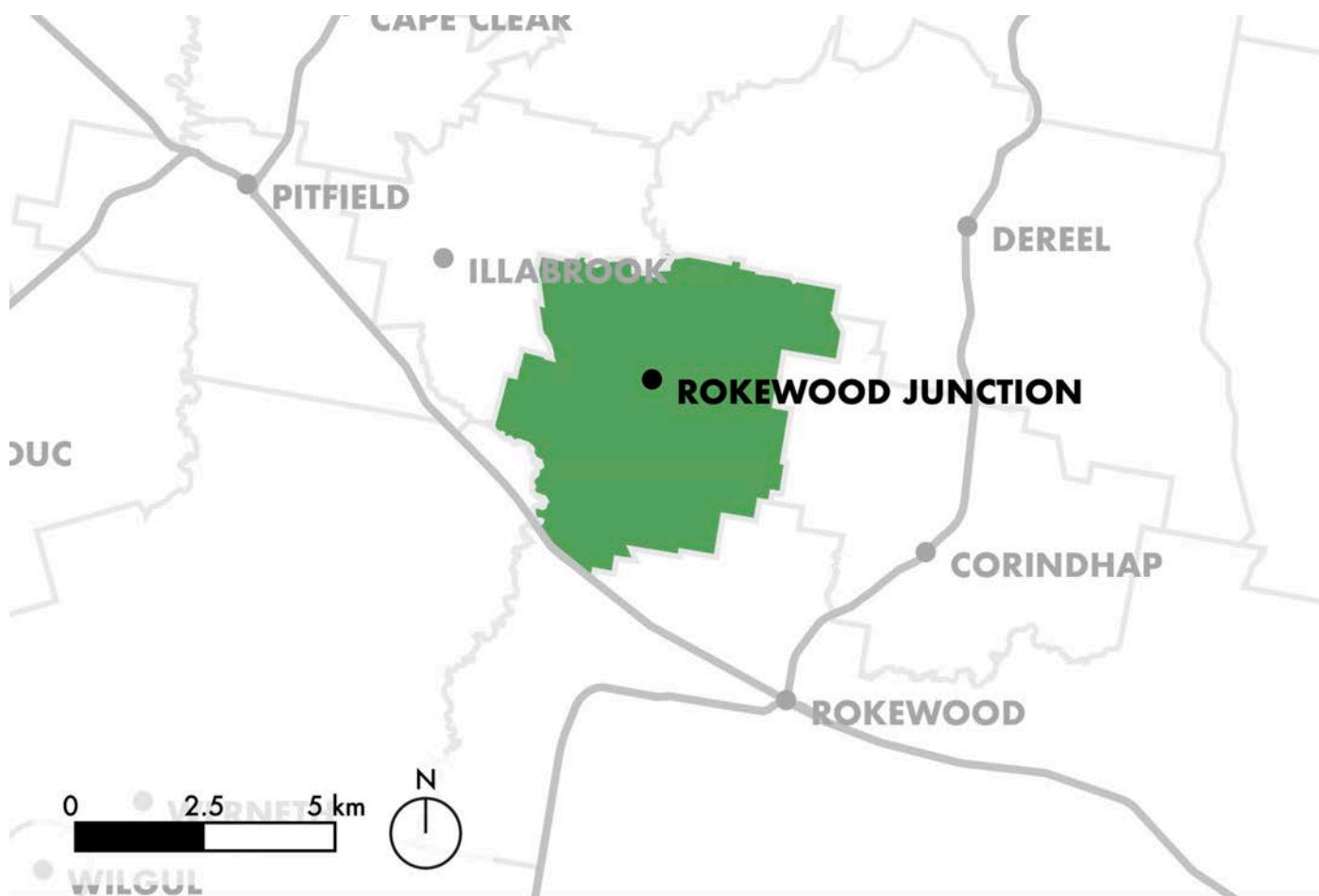
*Context map of Rokewood Junction.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Rokewood Junction was originally a sheep run known as Commeralship's station, with the settlement's site on the important creek crossing. Its first bridge was built in 1866 but replaced in 1893. Its location between Leigh and Grenville shires meant it served mining areas like Staffordshire reef as well as the Moonlight Flat. In the 1870s it boasted two hotels, though its population fluctuated with the fortunes of the mining economy. In 1893 during the mining revival its population was 252, with the promise of 'The Long Thought Of' Mine in 1902. Its school was rebuilt in 1908 but thereafter the economy relied increasingly on orchards and farming, with a significant role as a supplier of bread for Rokewood and Corindhap due to the nearby supply of firewood. There are no heritage places that are currently protected or identified in the locality.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Rokewood Junction is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and hilly topography. Home to approximately 36 people, Rokewood Junction consists of a scattering of exclusively low-density housing in primarily 1950s and Victorian styles. Rokewood Junction has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.



*Residential development in Rokewood Junction.*



*View of Rokewood Junction streetscape and surrounding landscape from Cape Clear-Rokewood Road.*
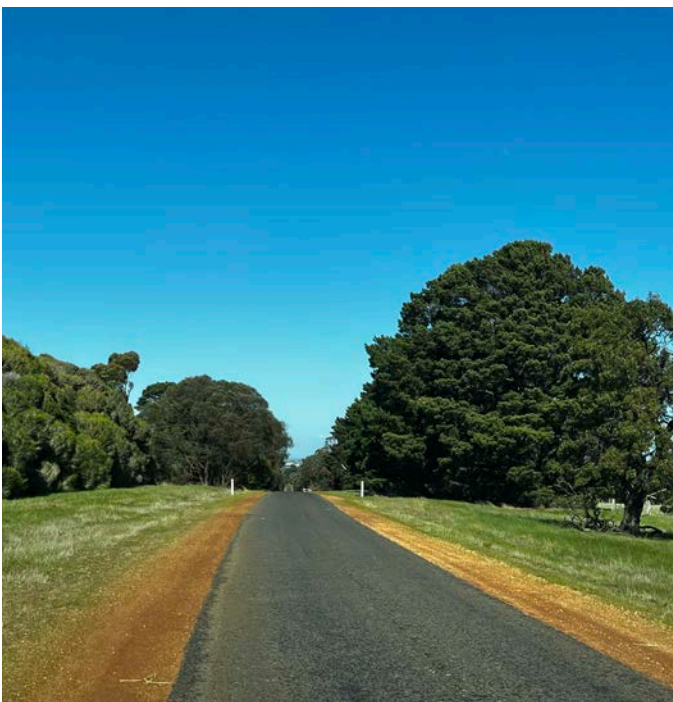


*View of streetscape and surrounding landscape from Dereel-Rokewood Junction Road.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Russells Bridge is a locality 32 kilometres north-west of Geelong and 45 kilometres south-east of Ballarat in the south-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Clyde Hill Road, Russells Bridge Road and Parker Road, linking to nearby Sutherlands Creek to the north-east and Bannockburn to the south. The roads also link the locality to Geelong and Ballarat via the Midland Highway.
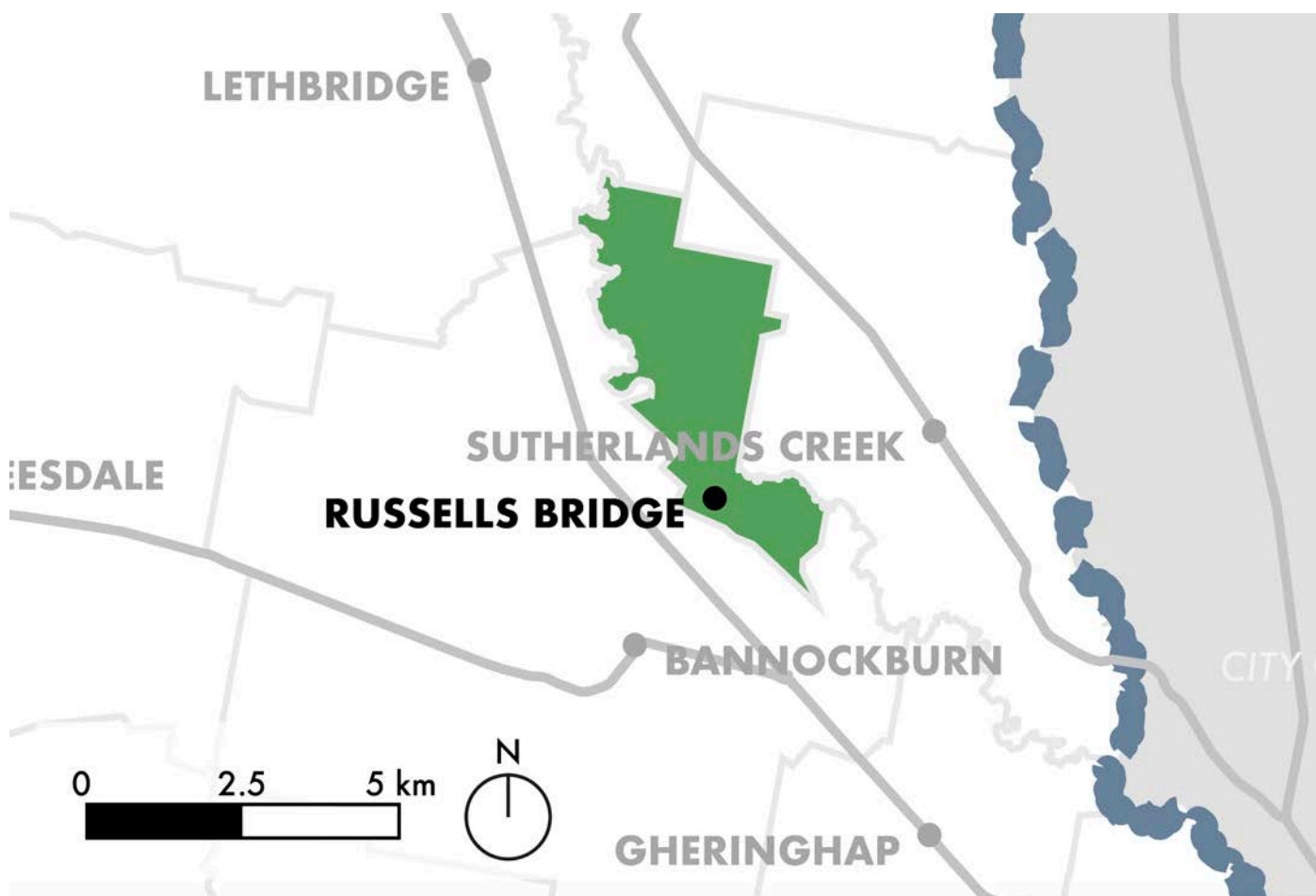


*Context map of Russells Bridge.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Much of the land around Russell's Bridge, and nearby Bannockburn, was owned by the great pioneering Clyde Company, managed by George Russell from as early as 1838. A bridge was constructed over the Moorabool River as early 1842 for the cost of twenty pounds paid by George Russell to a J. S. Oldfield. The current bridge, the third to be built in this location, was built with steel girders in 1920. It is in the Heritage Overlay. From the 1850s, a small cluster of buildings near the intersection of Clyde Hill, Parker's and Russell's Bridge Roads began to develop in the valley. This small settlement, just 3.5 km north of Bannockburn, came to include a church, a primary school, and a steam-powered flour mill as well as the farm buildings and dwellings left from pastoral settlement. The

locality retains several places, in the Heritage Overlay, that reflect the Clyde Company's pastoral occupation and their later flour mill, as well as the Presbyterian Church and State School from its township era.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Though currently dominated by agricultural land uses, Russells Bridge has a unique and notable landscape featuring the Moorabool River valley, ridgelines and a river plain. A thin line of vegetation borders the meandering Moorabool River but is largely absent from the rest of the landscape which has been cleared for crop farming. Home to approximately 68 people, Russells Bridge consists of a scattering of primarily low-density housing dispersed throughout the locality. The locality has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.
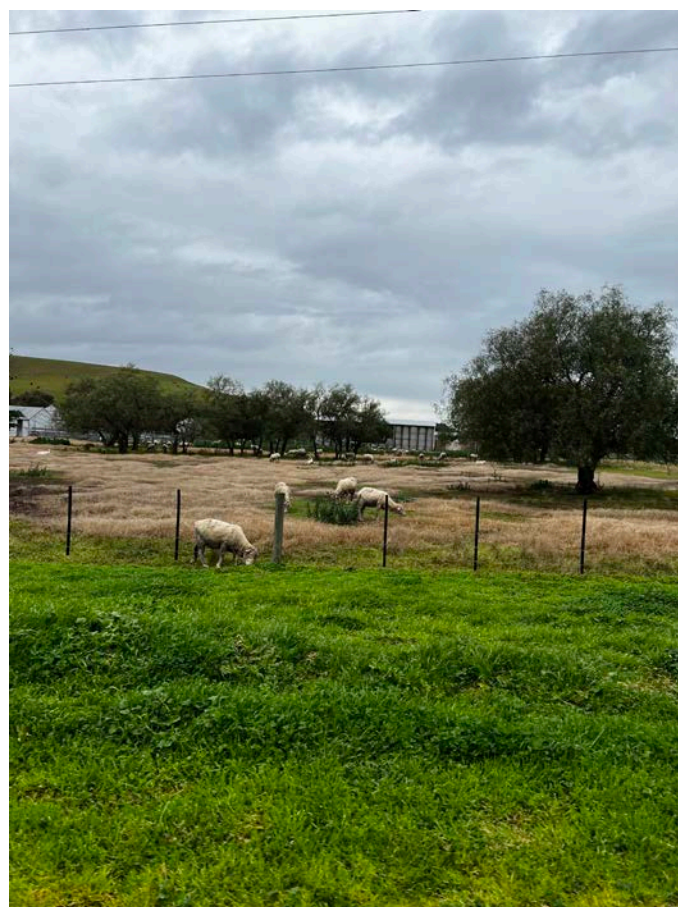


*Agricultural land use in Russells Bridge.*



*View of Russells Bridge landscape and private property from Russells Bridge Road.*



*Residential development.*

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## INTRODUCTION:

She Oaks is a rural locality located 22 kilometres north-west of Geelong in the central eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Maude-She Oaks Road and Steiglitz-She Oaks Road, linking the locality to nearby Steiglitz to the north-east and Maude to the south-east. The roads also link the locality to Geelong and Ballarat via the Steiglitz Road which connects to the Midland Highway.
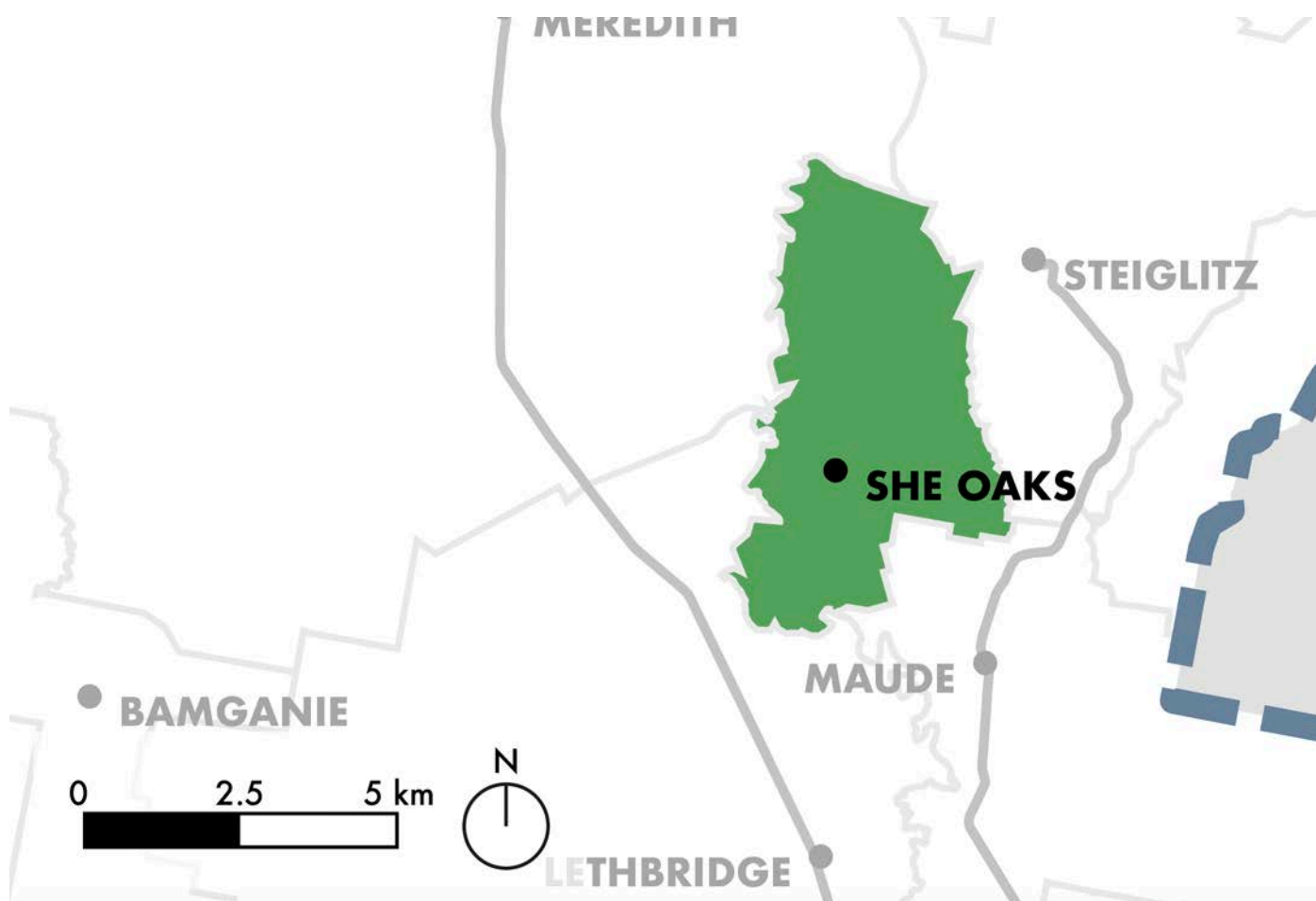
*Context map of She Oaks.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

She Oaks was originally part of Moranghurk, and used for sheep grazing. After the discovery of gold at Steiglitz it was part of the route from Geelong to the Goldfields. It was always said She Oaks was named after the many She Oak trees that grew in the area. There were calls in 1870 to establish a school here, though pupil numbers quickly fell, and the first school closed in 1893. The interwar years saw a revival of the township, with the She Oaks Post Office opening in 1916, and a schoolhouse relocated from Sutherlands. In 1945, an 1869 church was relocated to She Oaks, for use by the Methodists. It was moved to Lethbridge in 1979. In 1951, the new school closed, and the building was destroyed by fire in 1982. The post office closed in 1953. Two archaeological house sites are in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, She Oaks is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and undulating topography. Home to approximately 110 people, She Oaks consists of a scattering of exclusively low-density housing. She Oaks has access to reticulated water and electricity but does not have access to reticulated sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.
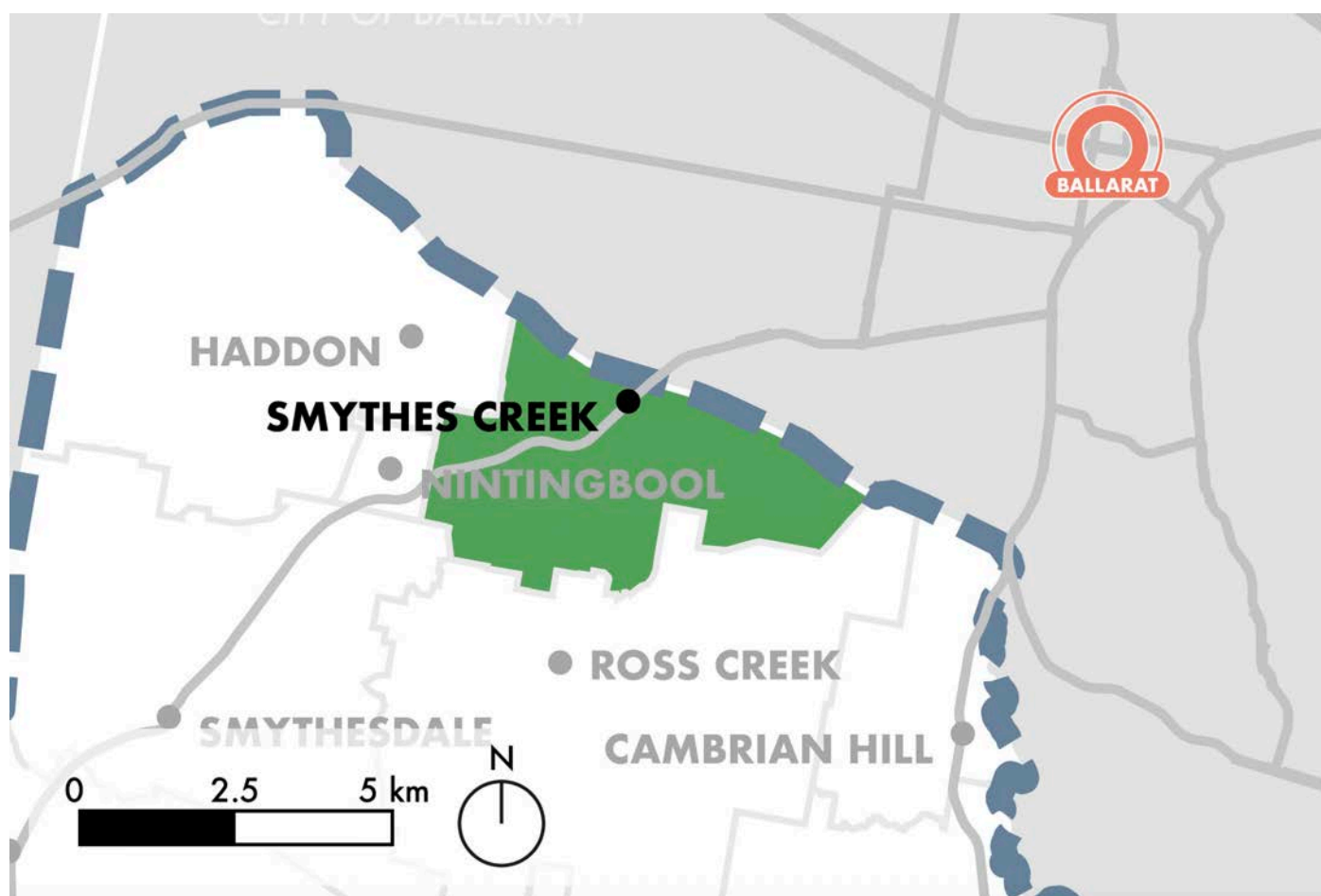
## INTRODUCTION:

Smythes Creek is a rural locality approximately 11 kilometres south-west of Ballarat spanning across the City of Ballarat and Golden Plains Shire municipalities. Serviced by the Glenelg Highway, the locality is linked to nearby Ballarat to the east and Smythesdale and Nintingbool to the west.



*Context map of Smythes Creek.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Smythes Creek takes its name from Captain John James Barlow Smythe, an early district pastoralist. In 1838, Smythe took up a lease of 10,440 acres in Woady Yaloak on Smythe's Creek, 8 miles south of Ballarat. He called his run 'Nentingbull' (also known as Nintingbool). The Woady Yaloak Creek runs through Nintingbool and it was known as Smythes Creek at that time. Confusingly, the current locality of Smythesdale was originally known as Smythes Creek, so historical information related to early gold discovery and subsequent gold rushes in 'Smythes Creek' generally refer to today's Smythesdale. The current Smythes Creek area did not see gold mining but was a small farming community of predominantly dairy farms, including a number of model dairies that people travelled far and wide to visit. The northern third of Smythes Creek is in the City of Ballarat. There are no protected or identified heritage places in the Golden Plains part of this locality.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Smythes Creek consists primarily of rural residential development and broad acre farming. The area forms part of a rural lifestyle belt separating Ballarat from settlements such as Napoleons and Smythesdale. This provides strong commuting linkages into Ballarat for work and other services. Home to approximately 1155 people, housing stock in Smythes Creek consists of predominantly low-density dwellings distributed in a cluster adjacent to Glenelg Highway. The landscape consists of both cleared land and some areas of dense native vegetation across a largely flat topography. Smythes Creek has access to reticulated water and electricity but not reticulated sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre relying on nearby Smythesdale and Ballarat as service centres.
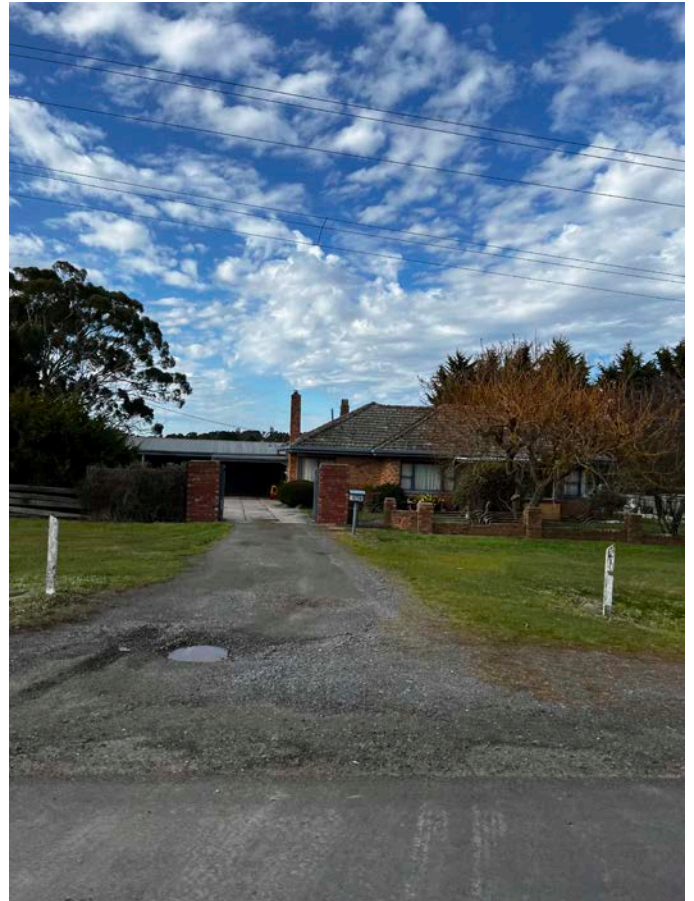


*Residential development.*



*View of Smythes Creek landscape from Glenelg Highway.*

## INTRODUCTION:

Springdallah is a small rural locality located 28 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the northern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Pitfield-Scarsdale Road, linking the locality to nearby Newtown and Scarsdale to the north and Cape Clear and Pitfield to the south. The road also links the locality to Geelong via the Glenelg Highway.



*Context map of Staffordshire Reef.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Gold was discovered at Sawpit Gully, Springdallah, in 1859. Much of the early mining was 'tolerably rich' alluvial. The area included several nomadic settlements dependent on the deep lead gold mines, including the Grand Trunk Gold Mining Company, one of the most successful in the area yielding 200 ounces a week in late 1864. By 1865 there were four hotels but no churches. A wooden Catholic church was constructed in 1875 and replaced by the brick St. Patrick's Catholic Church in 1897. It is in the Heritage Overlay, and a number of former mining sites are in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Springdallah is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 27 people, Springdallah consists of exclusively low-density housing dispersed along Scarsdale-Pitfield Road and adjacent streets. Springdallah has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## INTRODUCTION:

Staffordshire Reef is a locality and former mining town located 23 kilometres south-east of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Staffordshire Reef Road, providing access to nearby Berringa to the south.



*Context map of Staffordshire Reef.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

By 1863 Staffordshire Reef was an established mining and postal township, situated on the prosperous Stafford Quartz reef. Gold was first discovered within the Staffordshire Reef range in the form of alluvial gold deposits in the early 1850s. By 1864, quartz mining was the most successful form of gold extraction, with three quartz crushing mills operating within Staffordshire Reef. In 1865 the population was approximately 500 people, with 150 registered miners. In common with other towns between Linton and Rokewood, mining declined during the 1870s or 1880s, and revived in the 1890s or around the turn of the century. The population figures chart the changes in mining activity. By the 1920s mining had ended its second period and the school closed in 1926. The only remnant of the township is the Staffordshire Reef Cemetery, in the Heritage Overlay. There are many former mining sites in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and Victorian Heritage Register.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

The landscape consists of mostly dense native vegetation across a hilly topography. This north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire is recognised as an area that reflects a rural residential character, comprised of a large proportion of existing small lots which include old crown titles. Many of these lots have been developed for rural residential purposes. Future Residential development within Staffordshire Reef consists of an isolated section of rural residential land surrounded by agricultural uses and dense native vegetation in the south. Staffordshire Reef's population of 48 is primarily a rural lifestyle community living in low density housing. Staffordshire Reef has access to reticulated electricity but not reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre with exception to the historic Staffordshire Reef Cemetery.

## INTRODUCTION:

Steiglitz is a small, dispersed locality located 30 kilometres north of Geelong in the central-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Steiglitz Road, linking the locality to nearby Maude to the south and Meredith to the north-west. The road also links the locality to Geelong via the Midland Highway.



*Context map of Steiglitz.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Steiglitz is an abandoned mining town now an Historic Park under the jurisdiction of Parks Victoria since 1977, on the edge of the Brisbane Ranges National Park. In 1856 Steiglitz goldfields weekly yield stood at a thousand ounces. Its roads were once made with quartz, with gold specks visible giving Steiglitz the reputation of being 'the town paved in gold'.

The town reached its peak in 1865. During a revival in the second gold rush period between 1890 and 1894 the population peaked once more in 2000. The Steiglitz Miner advertisements in 1893 included the Albion Brick and Tile company, two drapers, two barbers, a milliner, a Victoria Coffee Palace, watchmaker and jeweller, carpenter, stationer, bookseller, plumber, tinsmith, undertaker, billiard saloon, five hotels, a butcher, grocer, two doctors, a wheelwright, saddlery and chemist.

By 1904, the old mining town's population had again dwindled to 150. There was probably a

minor revival of alluvial mining and the reworking of mullock heaps during the Great Depression. The last nugget was found in 1935, the last mine closed in 1941 and the general store closed soon after.

The former township is on the Victorian Heritage Inventory, comprising a small number of remnant buildings, including two timber churches, a brick shop, and scattered timber and brick Victorian dwellings, some infrastructure, the irregular street layout all within an open area of hillside, and many alluvial and deep shaft mining sites with associated mullock heaps (within and surrounding the township). The former Court House is in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, and the Steiglitz Cemetery is in the Heritage Overlay.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, most of the Steiglitz locality is contained within the park south of the Brisbane Ranges National Park and covers an area of 4,441 hectares. The broader landscape includes the Sutherland Creek valley and views to the bush beyond. There is evidence of the town centre with a small number of remnant historic buildings of various types, reminders of Steiglitz's gold rush town past, some basic infrastructure and an irregular street layout all within an open area of hillside. Some private development attempts have been made recently, but these have been largely unsuccessful due to the impact on the character. Only 18 people live in Steiglitz in exclusively low-density dwellings distributed in a dispersed cluster at the bend of Meredith-Steiglitz Road. The Steiglitz landscape is largely dense native vegetation distributed across a hilly topography. Vegetation consists of largely native stringybark eucalyptus trees which tend to burn quickly and spread embers long distances, escalating the bushfire risk in the region. Steiglitz has no access to reticulated electricity, water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a formal town centre.


*Remnant historic building from Steiglitz's Gold Rush past.*


*Steiglitz streetscape and surrounding landscape from Steiglitz Road.*
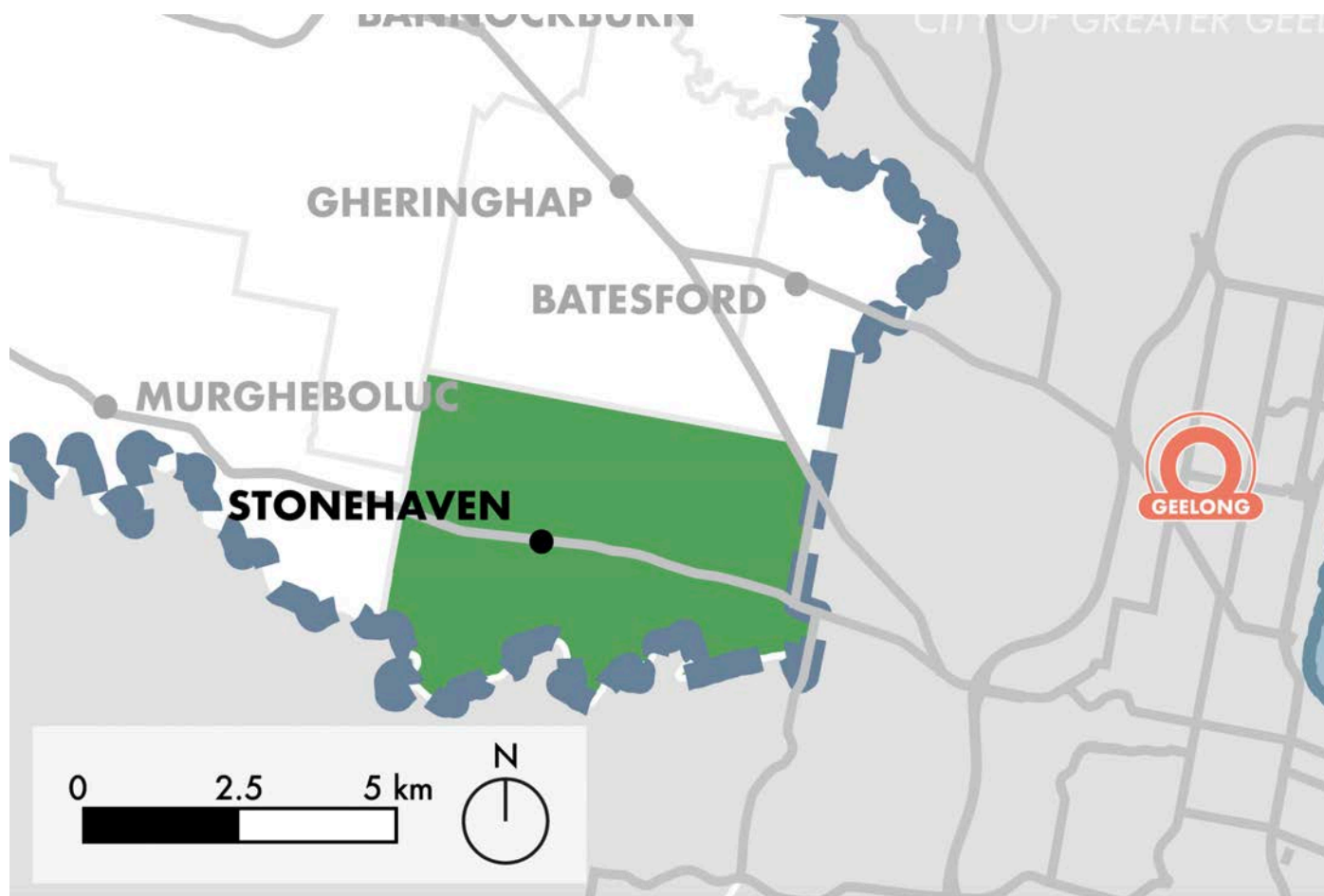

*Remnant historic building from Steiglitz's Gold Rush past.*

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## INTRODUCTION:

Stonehaven is a small rural locality 12 kilometres north-west of Geelong in the south-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by the Hamilton Highway, linking the locality to nearby Geelong to the south-east and Murgheboluc to the north-west.



*Context map of Stonehaven.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Stonehaven or Lower Leigh area was part of the Parish of Gheringhap, marked out by members of the Port Phillip Association. The ruins of Tulchan property mark its early association with the Mercer family. The Meltham Homestead at Stonehaven was originally the centre of a sheep property. The Stonehaven school and recreation reserve opened 1879 with 35 children. There are two drystone walls, associated with early pastoral settlement, in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Stonehaven remains a primarily agricultural area and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and undulating topography. Home to approximately 82 people, Stonehaven consists of a scattering of exclusively low-density housing. Stonehaven has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.

# 53. WALLINDUC
## LOCALITY

## INTRODUCTION:

Wallinduc is a rural locality 44 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the north-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Lismore-Scarsdale Road, linking the locality to nearby Pitfield to the north-east and Lismore to the south-west.
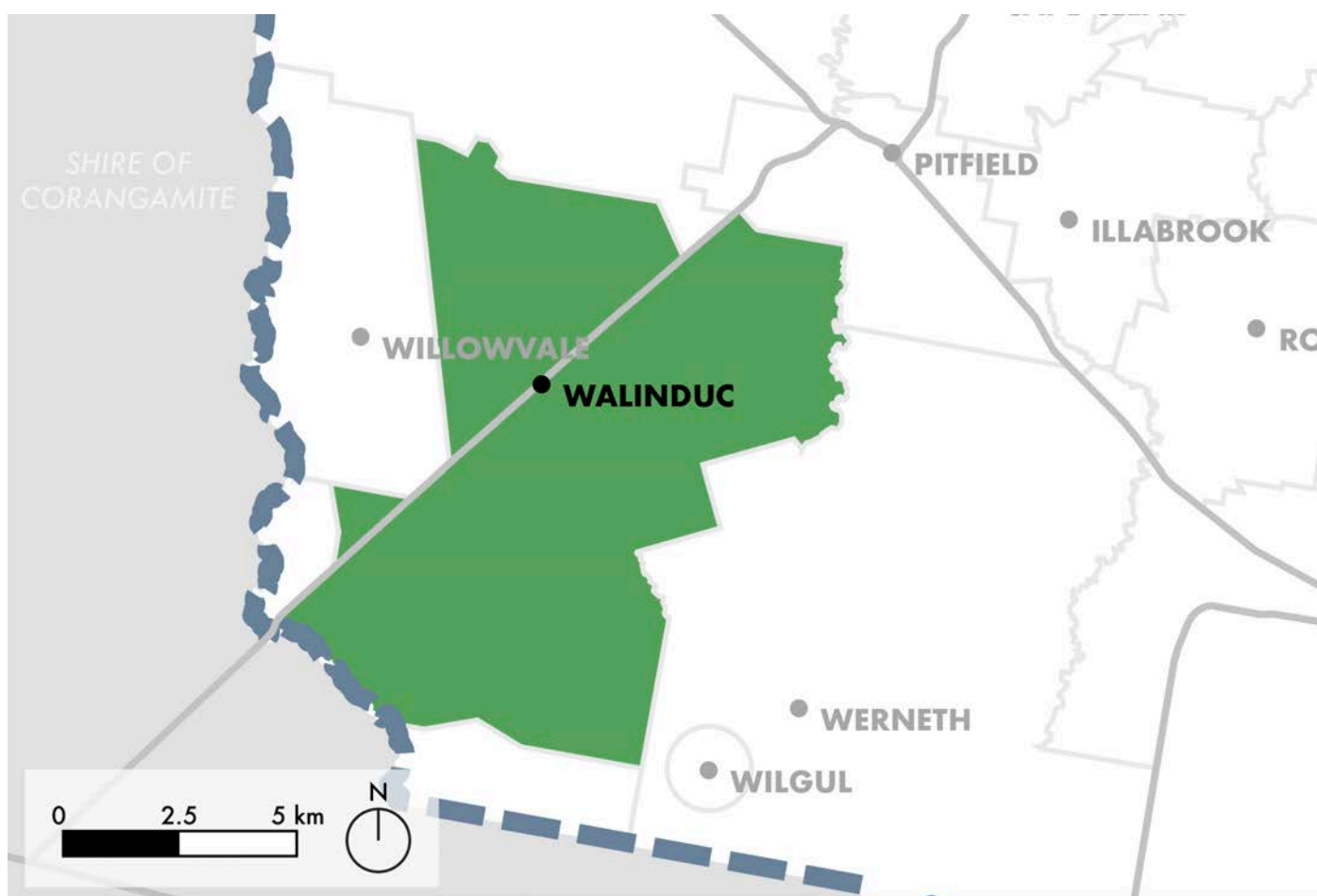


*Context map of Wallinduc.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

William Rowe selected land in the Wallinduc area around 1841 and called it the Naringal Run. In 1857 he obtained freehold title to 640 acres of the run, and built a house to replace the 1840s slab hut. The family moved to Glenfine Homestead (in Werneth) for some years but returned to Naringal in 1904 and built a third house on this site. The house was extended in 1920, and the garden around it redesigned by Edna Walling in 1951. The complex survives today and is in the Heritage Overlay.

The area has remained agricultural in character, with an increase in population associated with the Soldier Settlement Scheme after the First World War, with returned soldiers and their families arriving in the area to take up small farms subdivided from larger pastoral estates. This led to the creation of two community-

related places in the interwar period: the War Memorial cairn, c1920, and St Agnes' Church, a c1858 timber building relocated to Wallinduc in 1919. Both are in the Heritage Overlay.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Wallinduc is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 37 people, Wallinduc consists of a scattering of exclusively low-density housing. Wallinduc has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has limited significant community facilities or a traditional town centre with exception of the Wallinduc CFA fire station.

## INTRODUCTION:

Werneth is a rural locality 46 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the central-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by Pitfield-Cressy Road, linking the locality to nearby Pitfield to the north and Cressy to the south.



*Context map of Werneth.*

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Werneth area's history is closely associated with the Glenfine pastoral run. The Glenfine Homestead was built of bluestone in 1873 for pastoralist, William Thomas Rowe. Deep lead gold mining on the Pitfield Plains surrounding Glenfine homestead was carried out from the 1890s to 1920s. Several mining companies operated on the Glenfine property during this time. One of the mines - the Glenfine South mine - was located virtually in the front garden of the homestead. The then landowner, William Rowe

(jnr) sought commercial gain through providing accommodation for workers for the mines by subdividing a parcel of land near his homestead and creating the private township of Hollybush. By 1900 the township had a population of 426 and comprised a store, a couple of boarding houses and over twenty cottages. The township was in use for some twenty years until the cessation of mining activities in the district. Hollybush township has disappeared but is protected in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and Register, along with the Glenfine Homestead and

garden. A number of nearby mining sites are also in the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Today, Werneth remains a primarily agricultural area and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 58 people, Werneth consists of a scattering of exclusively low-density housing. Werneth has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre. Wilgul is a small locality situated within Werneth.

# 55. WILLOWVALE
## LOCALITY

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

### CHARACTER PROFILE:

Willowvale is a rural locality 47 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in the central-western region of the Golden Plains Shire. The area is serviced by Willowvale Road, linking the township to Rokewood-Skipton Road to the north and Lismore-Scarsdale Road to the south. These are both non-urban arterial roads connecting Willowvale to the surrounding townships. Willowvale is dominated by agricultural land uses and features remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 4 people, Willowvale consists of a scattering of exclusively low density housing. Willowvale has access to reticulated electricity but does not have access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.
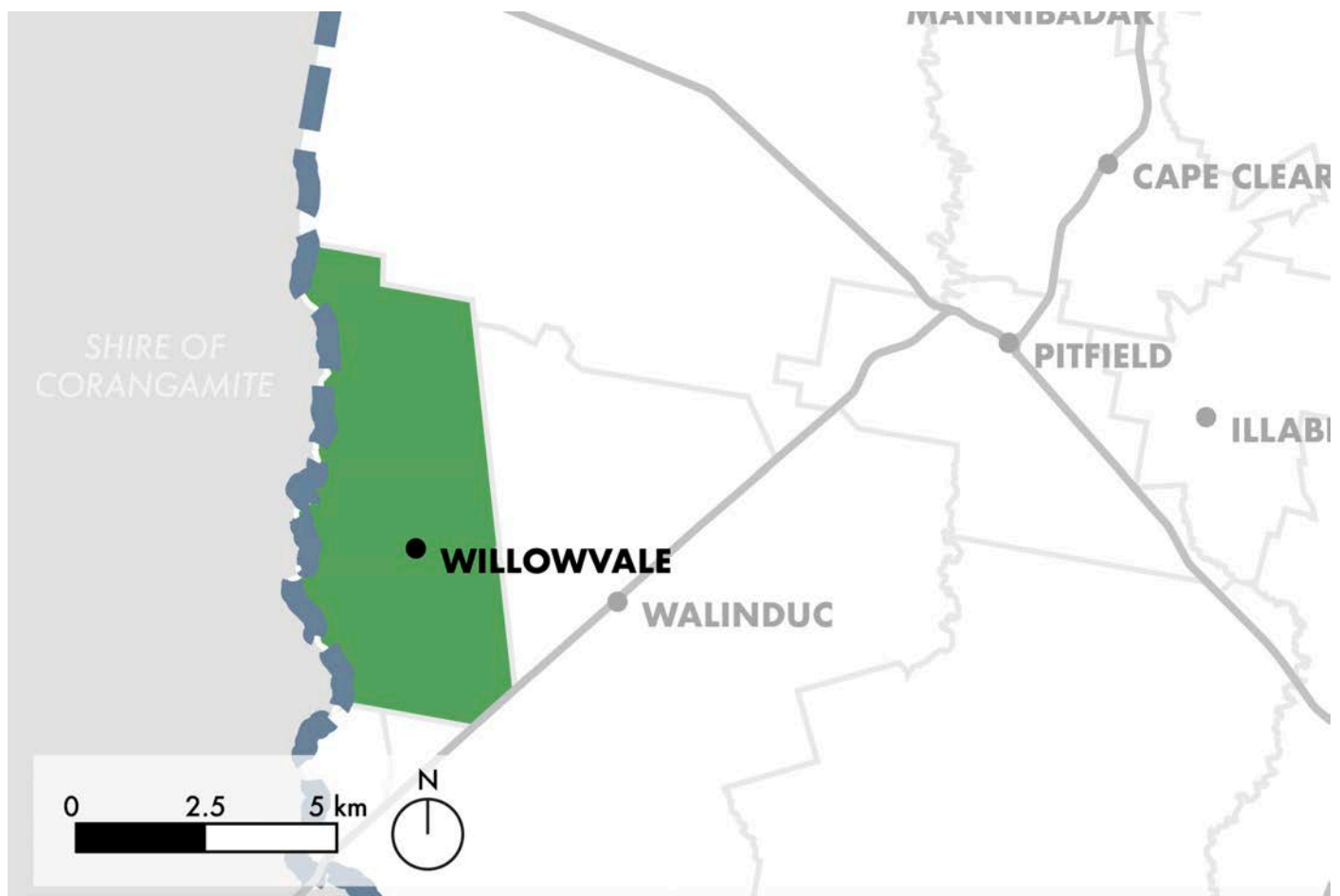


*Context map of Willowvale.*

# 56. WINGEEL
## LOCALITY

**INTRODUCTION:**

Wingeel is a small rural locality 49 kilometres west of Geelong and 50 kilometres south of Geelong in the southern region of the Golden Plains Shire. The locality is serviced by the Hamilton Highway, linking the locality to nearby Hesse to the east and Barunah Plains to the west. The Highway also connects Wingeel to Geelong in the east.
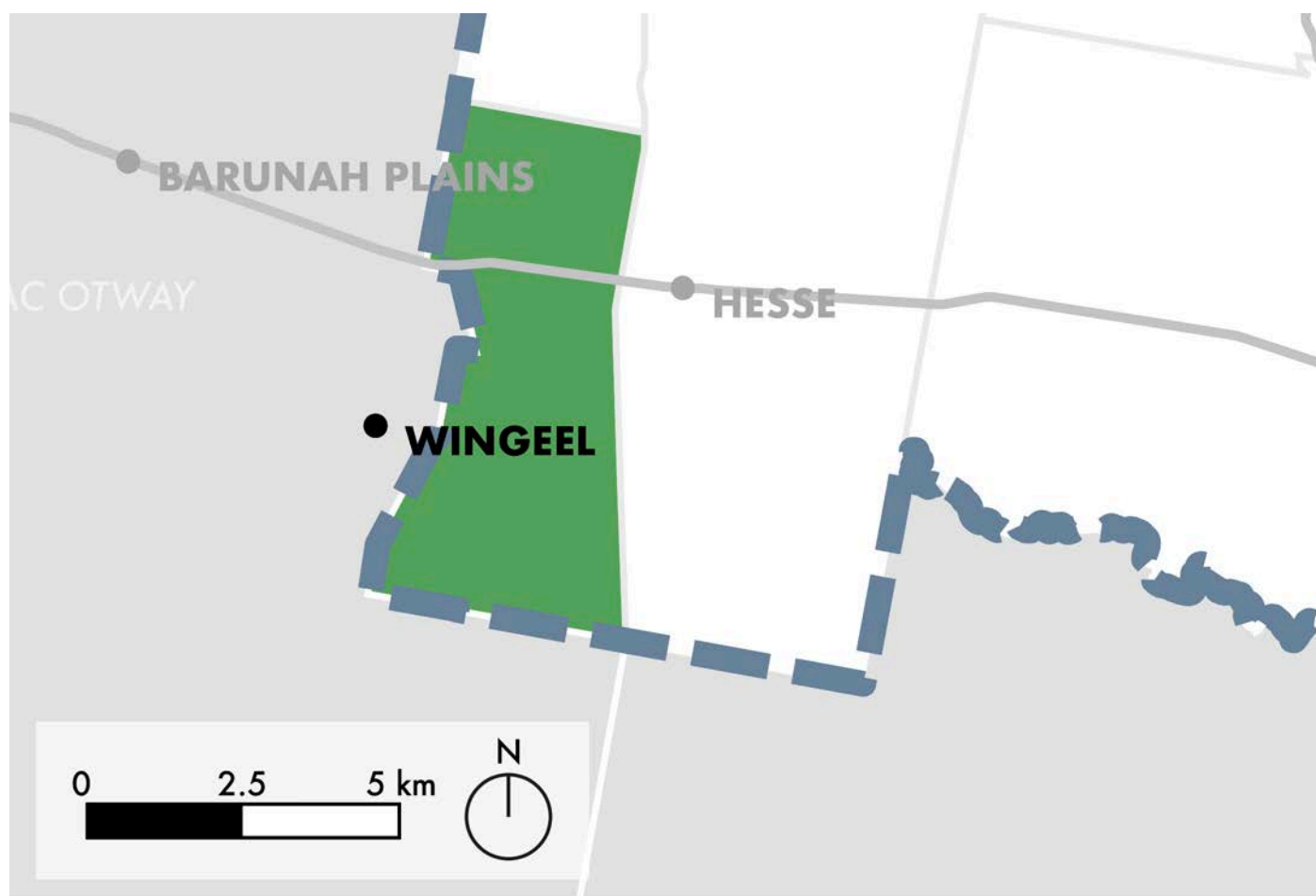


*Context map of Wingeel.*

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT:**

Wingeel was created from a subdivision of the Barunah Plains run. The pastoral run was first established in the late 1830s, and was first known as the Long Water Hole run, later Warracbarunah. In the 1840s the run was held by James Austin, and then from 1851 by Thomas and Philip Russell with their cousin John Simson. The Barunah Plains Homestead was built in 1868 for Thomas Russell; in Hesse. In 1854,

the Barunah Plains run was noted as ideal as a sheep run but poorly suited for agriculture. Despite this, the Soldier Settlement Commission purchased half of the run in 1949 and subdivided it for small-scale farming, known as the Wingeel Soldier Settlement (part of which is in Hesse). It is still agricultural land.

Wingeel is the second rail station from Gheringhap towards Maroona. In 1995, the

line was converted to standard gauge and upgraded to become the interstate line linking Melbourne and Adelaide. The station is no longer used today. There are no places with heritage protection in Wingeel. The western two-thirds of the locality is in the Colac Otway Shire.

## CHARACTER PROFILE:

Wingeel is dominated by agricultural land uses and features patches of remnant native vegetation across its largely cleared and flat topography. Home to approximately 23 people, Wingeel consists of exclusively low-density housing dispersed throughout the locality. Wingeel has access to reticulated electricity but no access to reticulated water, sewerage or gas and has no significant community facilities or a traditional town centre.