

The Rosedale Historic Walk is designed to reflect the rich history of this significant area as a tribute to the pioneers. The Walk offers a town loop of approximately 1.8km taking in the churches of Rosedale, or a return walk of 2.8km to the popular Willow Park Reserve, 1.4km to the north of town.



This walk can be commenced from either Prince Street Reserve in the heart of Rosedale or Willow Park Reserve on the Sale side of Rosedale. From Willow Park you can wander along tracks, footpaths and old stock routes.

Follow the tracks to the main street where you can enjoy local produce from bakeries to cafes, or continue back to Willow Park. The Prince Street Reserve contains a picnic shelter, toilets, BBQs, an oval and a play-space for the kids.

SITES OF THE WALK

Rosedale Common School
The Rosedale Common School was built by public subscription. The stone foundation was laid on 22 October 1870 by Mrs Christina King. William Allen was one of the contractors and was involved in constructing many of Rosedale's buildings. By February 1873 the Common School was out of debt and had been handed over to the government becoming Rosedale State School No. 770. The wooden classrooms and corridors were added in 1915 when the original building was partitioned. The new Rosedale Primary School was built on a new site in 1989.

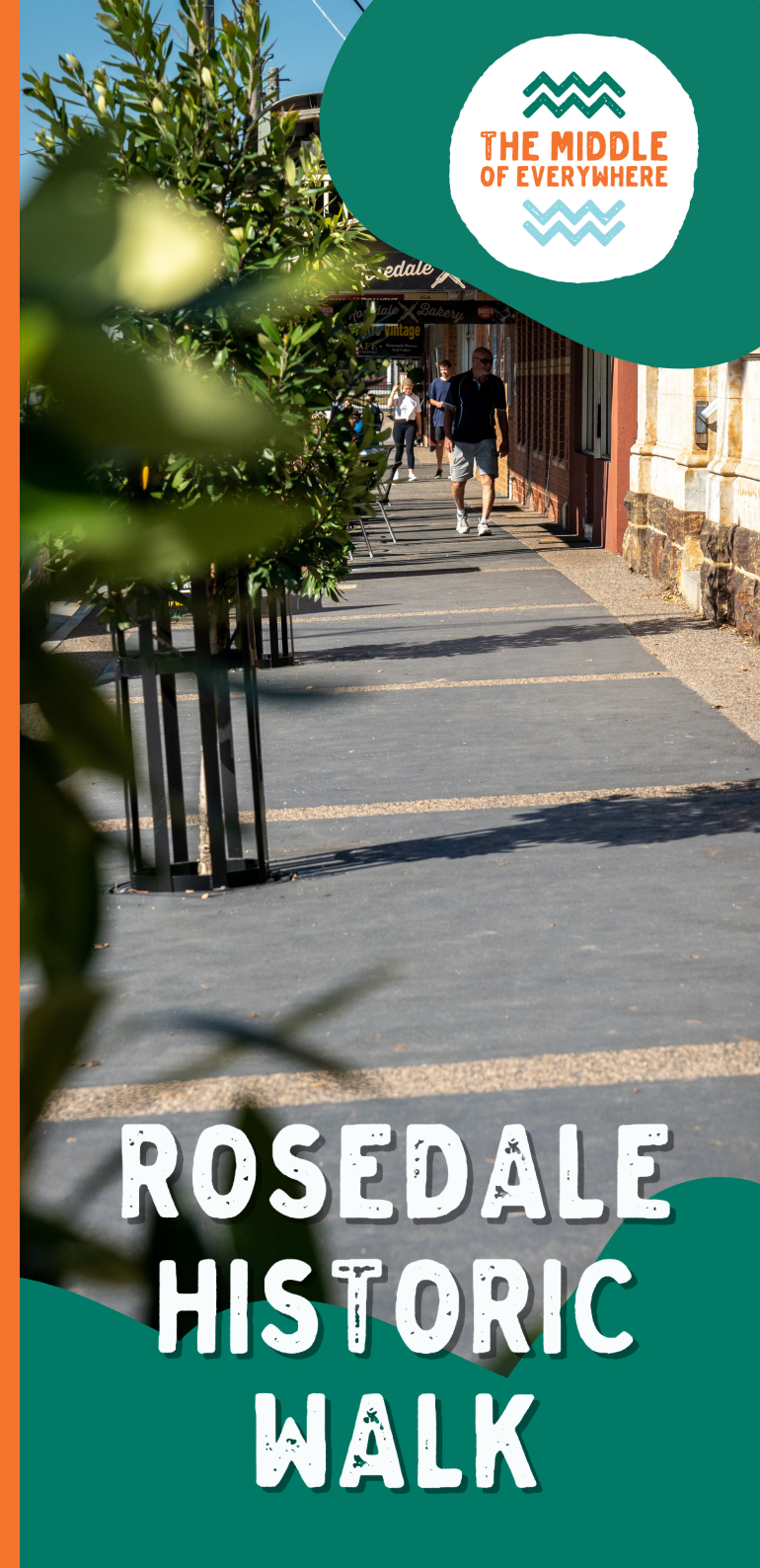


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ROSEDALE HISTORIC WALK



Rosedale Common School

The Mechanics Institute

The Mechanics Institute was built by Fidler Bros of Sale in 1874. George Browne was the architect, with William Allen and Charles Chown. 1940 saw the addition of the supper room with William Allen as designer and overseer. His son Arthur was the builder. Renovations by the Rosedale Shire Council in 1981 removed the stage, two dressing rooms and exterior stairway at the rear, two fireplaces and the interior wall. A lower, new ceiling hides the original decorative ceiling.



The Mechanics Institute

The Bank of Australasia

This building was erected in 1886, although the Bank of Australasia opened in Rosedale in February 1873. Rocks for the foundations were collected from the ridge to the north of the town. It was designed by Melbourne architect, Henderson and built by George Wynd of Sale. In 1917, due to World War 1 (1914 - 1918) it became a bank agency because of staff shortages. The bank reopened in 1949 and in 1952 it amalgamated with the Union Bank of Australasia to become the ANZ Bank. It closed in 1996. As a bank it was held up 4 times, the last time in 1975.

The Post and Telegraph Office

Built in 1866 by Henry Luke, becoming the Post and Telegraph Office in 1873, continuing for the next 155 (1988). The site of this plaque where Luke's Shop stood from where all postal business took place before 1867.

The Rosedale Masonic Lodge

Built in 1882 by John Graham Deakin, rented in 1893 (and later purchased) by the Law Department of Victoria and Rosedale's Court House until 1924. The Masonic Lodge purchased the building and later sold it after amalgamating with the Heyfield Lodge in 1999.

The Royal Hotel

Built by Henry Luke in 1860. In 1863 Mr J.T. Robertson established his store here as a grocer. He opened the Royal Hotel on 1st July 1864. In 1870 the name was changed to The Exchange Hotel. The stables were used by Cobb & Co. The hotel was refurbished in 2003 and renamed the Rosedale Tavern.



Rosedale Hotel

The Rosedale Hotel

Built in 1858 by William Allen for Paul Cansick, the first licensee. The second story was added in 1922. The kitchen and servants quarters to the rear are now listed. The stables and loft were removed in 1988, formed the famous courtyard, acting as a stopping point for the gold escorts travelling from the goldfields to Port Albert.

Rosedale Historic Church Walk

The St Rose of Lima Catholic Church was erected in 1874 by William Allen with the first service in 1875, with an extension being added in 1993. The Presbyterian Church, now St Andrew's Uniting Church was built in 1869 by Chown and Wynd. The official opening was on 2nd January 1870, with extensions added in 1962. St Mark's Anglican Church is the oldest Rosedale Church and one of the oldest brick churches in Gippsland. Built by Barry & Sons of Sale in 1866 and opened 1st January 1868.

Two Historic sites - Blind Joe's Hut & The Bridge Inn
Blind Joe was a Chinese shepherd, blind in one eye. He left Rosedale for the Ballarat goldfields in 1851. The early settlement was known as Blind Joe's Hut until renamed Rosedale in 1855. The Bridge Inn buildings were built before 1850. Jimmy Widdowson had the first license for the Bridge Inn in 1861. All buildings were burnt down in 1907.

Rosedale Historic Bridges

In 1861, the first bridge across Glengarry (now Latrobe) River at Rosedale was constructed. The first bridge was replaced in 1899. The steel bridge was built in 1988 and was used as a livestock and pedestrian crossing. After the 1934 flood a new ferro-concrete bridge was constructed under the supervision of the Victorian Country Roads Board and opened on 19th May 1938. In 1966 the bridge was duplicated, retained and resurfaced to form the western lanes.

Geology of the Ridge at Rosedale

The Ridge is a geological feature known as a horst; a long ridge of land between two parallel faults which slope away from each other. This was the centre of the 60,000 acre Snake Ridge Run taken up by John Reeve in 1842 with manager John King. The cliffs to the northeast of Willow Park are comprised of kaolin - used for making fine china, among other things. It was thought the kaolin industry would commence when the railways arrived between 1876 - 1878 but this did not occur.

Willow Park Reserve

Rosedale Shire Engineer, John Henderson was responsible for the weeping willows and the design at the park in 1900. By 1918 it had become covered in wilderness, Rifle Club members held working bees and converted the area into a park and picnic ground. In 1926 the Department of Crown Lands gazetted the "Willow Park and Camping Ground" and a Committee of Management was appointed. From the 1920's to 1930's the Rosedale Gift, a 100 yard sprint was held at the Park.

