

MAFFRA COURTHOUSE

Built in 1888, the Maffra Courthouse has been completely refurbished inside and includes the specially designed show cases to house the Pino Deriu Collection complimenting the beautiful restored Baltic Pine floor. Maffra Courthouse is full of the most intriguing gems, crystals, fabulous fossils and fluroscent minerals from Australia and around the world.

FREE ADMISSION

OPEN 7 DAYS FROM 10AM

All school & public holidays or by appointment.



MAFFRA'S MAIN STREET

Maffra's main thoroughfare is Johnson Street, a block away from the former railway line. The sugar beet factory was further away, between the railway and the Macalister River. Johnson Street has a tree-lined median and a number of surviving heritage buildings.

Foremost are the former National Bank (1877) and court house (1888). Other notable buildings are the Maffra and Metropolitan hotels, Fosters buildings (shops), the RSL hall and the World War I memorial hall. The World War II memorial hall is in Foster Street.



CONTACT US

Maffra Visitor Information Centre

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Maffra VIC 3860

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Social Media: [@themiddleofeverywhere](https://www.instagram.com/themiddleofeverywhere)



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PINO DERIU COLLECTION

ABOUT PINO DERIU

Guiseppe (Pino) Deriu was born in Orotelli, Sardinia (Italy) in 1925.

His father was a manager of a local cheese factory and young Pino was well educated. He later studied and trained as an accountant.

Pino arrived in Australia in 1952, joining his brother, who had come out two years earlier, and together they established a successful pig stud in Nyora.

Pino later moved to Noojee and started carting timber and logs - a business he was to continue until his retirement in 1982. He moved to Heyfield in 1958.

It might seem a strange career path, but Pino was happy, as he loved the outdoor life.

Pino's interest in gemstones was first kindled when he visited his brother who had moved to Coober Pedy searching for Opals. Here, Pino fell in love with the great space of the Australian Outback and with the "searching". To him, the money was not at all important - it was the fun of collecting.



**Guiseppe
"Pino"
Deriu**

MORE ABOUT PINO DERIU

All his spare time was subsequently spent between the outback and closer to home along the reaches of the Avon River which yielded up some beautiful agates and conglomerates.

Pino's love of collecting was not confined to gemstones, he became greatly interested in all mineral ore specimens and natural crystals as well as fossils.

He preferred to leave most of his specimens that he collected in their natural state, rather than having them cut and polished, and this has added to the scientific value of the collection.

Pino developed many friendships and contacts overseas who searched out rare specimens for him and by swapping with materials he had gathered locally, his collection grew. He also had a number of trips overseas in pursuit of his passion.

Pino considered leaving his collection to a State Museum but chose instead to bequeath it to his own community where it can be admired and enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.



THE PINO DERIU GEMSTONE COLLECTION

This important collection of mineral specimens, gemstones and fossils is the product of a lifetime hobby of a resident of this community - Guiseppe (Pino) Deriu, from Heyfield.

Apart from a wide and fully representative range of Australian specimens, the collection also contains extremely rare and valuable items from Europe, Africa, South Africa, Asia and Asia Minor.

Some come from even further away, meteorites.

Many of these pieces are astonishingly beautiful and even the most casual observer will surely be impressed by the large and rare mineral crystals as well as the delicate and varied minitures.

