



Jindera Heritage Walk



The Historic Walk will take you on a short loop through the history of the township of Jindera. Each site is marked with a plaque that will provide a brief look into the times and the lives of the pioneers who became the foundation of our community.

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| 1 The Jindera Mill Hotel | 9 Jindera Bush Fire Brigade | 17 St John's Lutheran School |
| 2 School of Arts & Bakery | 10 Jindera Park Football Club & War Memorial | 18 Welzel's Blacksmith |
| 3 Home Nursing Hospital | 11 Jindera Public School | 19 The Forest Hotel |
| 4 Molkentin Blacksmith & Wheelwright | 12 Jindera Flour Mill | 20 Pioneer Park & Cairn |
| 5 Dressmakers Cottage | 13 Wagner's General Store | 21 Police Station |
| 6 The Jindera Hotel | 14 St Paul's Church of England | 22 Jindera Post Office |
| 7 The Adelaide Hotel | 15 Butcher Shop & Bethlehem Church | 23 Jindera General Store & Post Office |
| 8 Jindera Tennis Club | 16 St John's Lutheran Church | 24 Jindera Saw Mill |

The Jindera Heritage Walk

The heritage walk will take you to 24 sites within the village of Jindera on which there was a business or important location during the development of Jindera in its past 150 years. The walk is approximately 3 km and can be done, in the majority, on footpaths around the village. A smaller version would be to take in the three main street blocks of the village which would capture 17 sites.

Jindera Township

Prior to the arrival of Europeans in the 1800's, the region was part of the area inhabited by the Wiradjuri people of central NSW. The Murray River is generally accepted as the southern boundary of Wiradjuri lands. The name Jindera is believed to be derived from Wiradjuri language but the meaning is now clouded by time.

In 1824, the Hamilton Hume and William Hovell expedition passed through this area on their overland journey to uncover lands that lay between the Sydney settlement and the area of Western Port, later settled in 1835 to become the city of Melbourne. Where they crossed the Murray River was known as the Crossing Place, which later became the city of Albury.

The promising land in the area was soon inhabited by squatters who pushed south from Goulburn and Yass in search of opportunity, one of whom was John Dight. In 1836 John Dight took up a lease on 45,000 acres of land that stretched from Bungowannah, south west of the present township of Jindera, and extended north east to Table Top. The area was heavily wooded and so the lands to the north of the Crossing Place became known as Dights Forest.

Many German migrants had landed in the Adelaide area in previous years and it was now becoming difficult for the newer arrivals to buy good agricultural land in South Australia. The first German families began arriving into the Dights Forest area in the 1860's and the passage of the Robertson Land Act passed in 1861 opened up even more opportunities on lands previously leased to squatters. The Robertson Land Act allowed free settlers to take up land that had not been surveyed, in an area designated for agriculture. This suited the German migrants finding it difficult to farm in South Australia and more groups began the overland trek from South Australia.

By 1868 there were already 70 German families in the area. English, Scottish and Irish immigrants had also begun settling in the area as the land was transformed from forest to farm land. The Blank Range Hotel licence was moved to Jindera and the first of four hotels in the town was erected on the present site of the Jindera Hotel in 1868 (6).

The Dights Forest Post Office was gazetted in 1870 (22). The Forest Hotel (19) and store were opened in the same year followed closely by Molkentin's Blacksmith in 1872 (4). Many businesses rose and prospered in these early years of the township. On this walk you will be able to see the types of establishments that grew in this community to become the foundation of the township that is here today.

The early residents recognised the need to educate their children and many were taught in a make shift arrangement until the erection of the Public School in 1876 (11). The German community had established a school on their arrival but built the St John's school on its present site in 1874 (17). This school did not suit the other Jindera residents as the children were taught only in German.

Churches were also an essential part of the community. The first was a small slab hut that served as the Church of England for several years. The arrival of the German families saw the commencement of regular Lutheran services on the Kalm's property on Luther Rd, in 1868. They later established two churches in the town, the first was a timber structure on what is now Pioneer Drive in 1872 (15) and later a more impressive church near St John's School site in 1880 (16). As the town continued to grow the current St Paul's Church of England was built in 1891(14).

The events in the growing community were frequently reported in the various newspapers published in Albury and Wagga Wagga through the years. The Dights Forest Post Office was finally renamed as the Jindera Post Office in 1885.

The community appeared to have integrated well from its very early days, with sport, regular dances and social occasions forming an essential part of village life. The Jindera football team was recorded as early as 1886 and tennis and cricket were played at many homes before formal clubs were established. Golf was also added to the sporting roster as the Jindera recreational reserve grew with the support and labour of the towns folk. Jindera even had its own brass band that featured at many notable social gatherings.

At one time supporting four hotels, a bakery, butchers shop, saw mill, two blacksmiths and its own flour mill, the town has witnessed many changes through the years.

The early settlers of this town saw great opportunity; as the town grew and prospered, despite the adversities and hardships that are an ever present part of country life. The town you see today has been built on a strong foundation of community spirit, mutual support and hard work.