

## Heritage Trail Site Information

### 1) Community Op Shop

This building was opened in 1988 as a Bicentennial Project. It has housed a Military Museum, local memorabilia collection, craft outlet and now serves as the community op shop.

### 2) Old Powerhouse

Opened in April 1963, the Powerhouse supplied the town's power until July 1980, when the State Energy Commission grid system from Kwinana to Jerramungup opened. The Cameron Business Centre now occupies the site as a part of the Western Australian Community Resource Network.

### 3) Former War Service Office

Used by Major Cameron to administer the war service Land Settlement Scheme, 1952 to 1958.

### 4) Jerramungup Town Hall

Opened in April 1958 by Mr M.R. Watts, MLA after a concerted community effort to raise funds. The Hall has been renovated at the turn of the century.

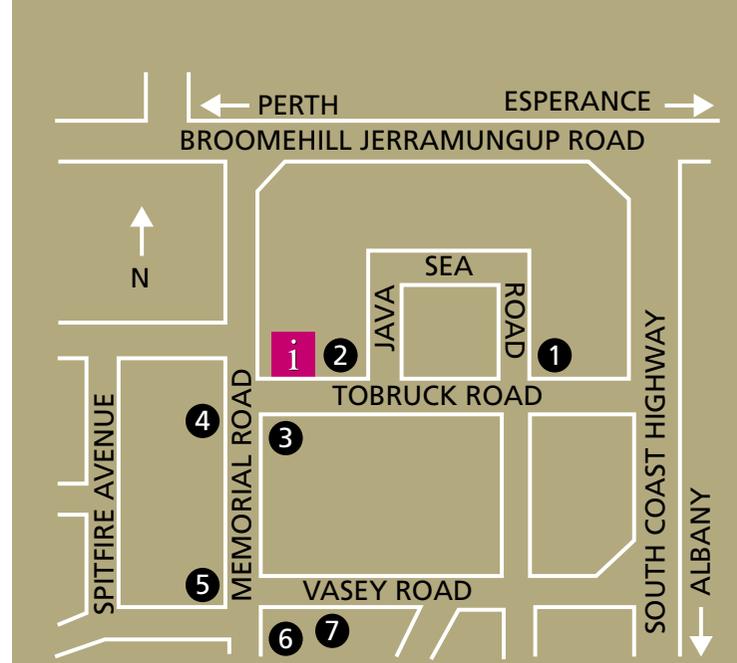
### 5) Major Colin Cameron a Plaque in Roe Park

Major Colin Cameron was the Administrator of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. A plaque in memory of Colin Cameron is located within the Fitzgerald Biosphere Garden.

### 6) All Saints Community Church

### 7) Shire of Jerramungup Administration Building

Constructed to house the newly created shire in 1982 (Gnowangerup Shire was divided) and opened on December 17th, 1982 by the Hon. June Craig, MLC, Minister for Local Government.



## Land Settlement

By the closing years of the Second World War, the Rural Reconstruction Commission was considering the possibilities of developing or acquiring properties for returned servicemen. Their considerations resulted in the passage of the *War Service Land Settlement Agreement Act of 1945*. Under this act the Commonwealth could provide the funds for farm purchase and development by ex-servicemen and undertake to accept 60% of any resulting losses (the remaining 40% could be accepted by the State). The Land Settlement Board was established in 1948 to operate the scheme in Western Australia. Initially 446 existing properties were purchased, subdivided and developed, including "Jerramungup" which was sold by the Hassell family to the Crown in 1950.

## Further Reading

Bignell, M. **The Fruit of the Country. A History of the Shire of Gnowangerup** (UWA Press, 1977)

Hassell, E. **My Dusky Friends** (C.W. & W.A. Hassell, 1975)

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# Jerramungup Heritage Trail

## Settlement and Development of the Jerramungup District



The Jerramungup Heritage Trail is part of the Heritage Trails Network established to commemorate the 1988 Bicentenary.



# Jerramungup Heritage trail

**The Trail is designed to enhance awareness and enjoyment of Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage.**

## How to get There

Jerramungup is 454kms south of Perth at the intersection of the South Coast Highway (National Route 1) and the Gnowangerup-Jerramungup Road. The western gateway to the Fitzgerald Bioshere – a drive of about five hours.

## Introduction

In 1835 John Septimus Roe, the State's first Surveyor General, led an expedition to explore the country between Perth and King George III Sound. On this journey he explored part of what was to become the Gnowangerup Shire travelling east as far as the Pallinup River. In 1848 he led a further expedition to explore the south-eastern part of the colony with the express purpose of evaluating its potential for future grazing and possible coal mining.

In October, Roe recorded in his journal that:

We were gladdened by the view of a large extent of good, grassy country to the N.E., lightly timbered and at this time well watered by a river and its numerous branches. It is known to the natives as Jeer-a-mung-up... the valleys were lightly wooded with yate, casuarina and black wattles.



## Early Settlement

An English migrant, Captain John Hassell, settled in the area in 1849 when he was granted 20,000 acres (8,100 hectares) of land.

His station, "Jerramongup", had an initial flock of 2,000 merino sheep descended from the Macarthur flock in New South Wales. Gradually the Hassells, Jerramungup's only pioneering family occupying land for over a century acquired some 44,000 acres (17,820 hectares), both freehold and leasehold. The number of sheep had increased to 12,000 by 1913 and to 18,000 by 1925. The grazing on the Hassell properties was run on the shepherd system in which one shepherd looked after 900 to 1,100 sheep.

The Hassell family also introduced agriculture to the area. In 1861 they cleared 8 hectares and sowed a wheat and barley crop. The grain they produced was used for milling (in their own mill) and to provide for the stock and draught horses on the station.

The present homestead was built between 1886 and the early 1900s in a typical "Old English" design. Now privately owned, it can be viewed from Cameron Woolshed Road. The old stone homestead nearby is thought to have been built between 1859 and 1861.

## War Service Land Settlement Scheme

In the 1950s, 344,000 ha of crown land was selected and 180,000 ha of this developed and sown with pasture under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. In all, 1,134 farms were developed under the scheme and 1,280 men were offered a farming livelihood. The major areas involved were Many Peaks, Rocky Gully, South Stirling, Jerramungup, Gairdner River, Eneabba and Denbarker.

In March 1953, Major Colin Cameron arrived in Jerramungup to supervise the programme. He proved to be a thorough and innovative administrator who contributed a great deal to the development and successful settlement of the area. His contribution to the Shire of Jerramungup is commemorated by a plaque erected by the Shire in 1983.

By the completion of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme in 1958, 250,000 acres had been cleared in the Jerramungup area and 141 farms developed. Each of these farms was fenced, pastured and watered with three dams; houses, sheds and stockyards were also constructed before the returned servicemen took possession.

Many more farms were released by the Lands Department in the 1960s under the Conditional Purchase Scheme, another government programme designed to facilitate the development of rural Western Australia.

