

18. Langslow's Store - SE cnr Lyons & Hilliers Streets

The site of Langslow's Post Office (c 1858), the last business to operate from this shop was a bootmaker's. The building has also housed a greengrocer and many years ago a tea room operated from the premises. The surviving old building to the left is thought to be amongst the first in the town and still has traces of the original wattle and daub construction.

19. Nomens' & Scheel's/Roberts' Stores - Lyons Street

This land was acquired by Nomens and Lauer in 1863 and a business was continually operated first in a building closer to the corner by Nomens and Scheel (who had a liquor licence), and then in this building, as a general store and drapers until 1977.

Renovated and opened as an antique shop by the Scott family, it is now known as the Red Store.

20. The Miss Bonnins' Store - Lyons Street

Misses Amelia and Harriet Bonnin, drapers and milliners, began trading at this premises in 1876. Subsequent owners traded as Confectioners, Fruiterers and Greengrocers.

21. Newsagency/Milk Bar - Lyons Street

Formerly newsagents, barber and billiard saloon. Entry to the saloon was through a door on the east wall. The barber shop was run by Digger Hall.

22. SITE -

Shops here on the corner, long since gone, housed a range of businesses, including a saddler, bootmaker, weekly Dentist, newsagent, mixed business, dressmaker, and, it is said, a Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages.

23. Crown Hotel - Lyons Street

The first business on this site was a Bakery commenced by Joseph Day in 1857. His plans for a brewery seem to have been abandoned in favour of an hotel (or licensed store) - 'The Ship Inn'. Named 'Crown', it seems, by the new owner, John Treacy (previously the mounted police constable) after his purchase in December 1866.

24. Givoni Building - Lyons Street

In 1947 a glove-making workroom was established by a Polish immigrant couple named Givoni in the supper room of the Mechanics Institute. This building was opened in 1948 to house the business which by then employed 12 glove-makers. It subsequently moved to Castlemaine in 1967.

25. SITE - Newstead Hotel

As we arrive at the Golden Way sign we come to where the CBD began in 1856. Current research suggests that some of the story on the sign is not correct but we are all agreed that as often as the researcher attempts to grasp "the truth" the story changes, revealing something new. It is this that makes the search so interesting.

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Information contained in the family of brochures entitled Newstead Heritage Walks has been derived from the following sources:

Bradfield, Ray: NEWSTEAD (undated)

Taylor, Phil & Jacobs, Wendy: NEWSTEAD HERATAGE STUDY Stage 1, 1999

Coady, Liz: A STORY OF EARLY NEWSTEAD, 2000, NDHS unpublished paper.

NEWSTEAD DATA, the Newstead Historical Society's data base created from the work of Margaret Di Fiore & Janet Trudgeon and current reseach of members.

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Newstead Heritage Walks

February 2026



CBD—Then & Now

A Walk in the
Shire of Mount
Alexander

Former
Echo Office
see No. 15



Newstead &
District
Historical
Society

Walk (or drive)
around Newstead:

visit the shops and
businesses as they were
and as they are now

Mount Alexander
Shire Walks and
Trails Advirory
Committee

1. Newstead Butter Factory – Tivey Street

Milk and milk products were important in the lives of the early settlers. In the 1880s the arrival of both the centrifugal cream separator and refrigeration enabled development towards a dairy industry. About 20 years later, in 1902, the idea of a cooperative butter factory for Newstead was suggested and, although slow to gain support, operations commenced here on June 17 1905. The Butter Factory ceased trading in the early months of 1975 and the building has since been used for a variety of businesses.

2. Railway Hotel - Ballarat Road

With the arrival of the Railway in 1874 a General Store was opened here by Frederick Lauer. Within a short time, it seems, it was transformed by Mr McGuinness and his wife into the Railway Hotel. It is said the weighbridge opposite belonged to the Hotel.

3. Railway Station

We can imagine the changes to life in Newstead when the Castlemaine line was extended to Maryborough in 1874. Thomas Martin, in his reminiscing letter of the early 1930s tells us that '... When the railway opened it was a great blow to Newstead for a while as it knocked the Maine (sic) traffic off the roads....' but as residents adjusted to the novelty, unthought of opportunities and markets opened up. One present resident remembers her grandmother packing eggs to send to Melbourne. Refurbished as an Arts Hub in 2015

4. SITE - Sale Yards - behind the Railway Hotel

Begun by McLean of the Newstead Hotel about 1898, this is one of the sites where stock was sold on sale days. The other, which, it has been said, tended to concentrate on pigs, was on the other side of the railway line. The Newstead Branch of the Country Women's Association, begun in 1927, started in conjunction with sale days. When the farmers came to town to sell their stock, their wives came too, with their babies, their goods to sell and their craft projects to while away the hours until the men's business was finished.

5. The Bridge Inn - cnr Lyons & Layard Streets

At Prior's Corner, as it became known, once was found the Bridge Inn and later Miss Webb's millinery business. Richardson's Bridge Inn competed fiercely with the Newstead Hotel for custom, even building a large function room to attract more customers.

6. The Shambles - Lyons Street

Straight from his slaughterhouse on Muckleford Creek, Charles Slee sold 'the primest of meat and smallgoods'. Town butchers also operated cutting carts for outlying farms.

7. The Old Bakery - Lyons Street

In the late 1860s the baker delivered his fresh baked goods from the ovens in this building in a 'stylish American leather suspension cart'. Families were 'waited on for orders' and bread was 8d for a 4lb (1.8kg) loaf. The bakery business was last run by the Backway family, finishing in the late 1960s.

8. Boots - Lyons Street

E A Rowe apparently first set up business in the shop next door to the Masonic Lodge. He then moved opposite to 'Prior's' before building this shop in 1878. 'E A Rowe Bootmaker and Repairer' offered 'repairs neatly and expertly executed' in the small front room on the right of this building. At one stage a visiting doctor and a dentist shared the left front room, the clients entering by the left-hand door. The building was recreated in 1997 as a coffee shop, now a private residence.

9. Newstead Community Centre - Lyons Street

The new section which replaced Cusack's Motors (c 1925) was added in 1994 to form the Newstead Community Centre.

10. Mechanic' Institute - Golden Way sign - Lyons Street

Mechanics' institutes were established in the early years of the development of Victoria to provide opportunities for '...intellectual, social and moral self-improvement....' (Phil Taylor). At Newstead an Institute was established around 1864 and operated from the function room at the Bridge Inn until this building was erected in 1868. The building carried a demanding mortgage for many years.

11. General Store & Bakery - Lyons Street

Alexander McMeikan was responsible for the first stage of this building (the section to the left when, around 1868, he opened it as a General Store. The whole site was then acquired, developed, and run for many years by the Colquhoun family, both as a store and an hotel. The building is now home to the Supermarket and Bakery.

12. Rowe's Coachbuilder & Wheelwright NE cnr Lyons & Panmure Streets

The 'new' building brought to town to house 'Amanda's Obsessions' Antique Shop, now functioning since 2 Jan 2006 as Dig Café, stands on the site of a blacksmith's shop - Ibbotson's, then Rowe's and later owned by Hawkey & Skate, well-known carriage builders.

13. SITE - Next Door –

Part of the land originally purchased in 1856 by William Ibbotson, this shop housed a butcher in the 1880s, more than one chemist and then later, a draper, amongst other things.

14. Butchers Shop- Lyons Street

Previously the shop was run for many years by the McLaren Brothers. An earlier stage of the building housed F Franzi, Tailor and Outfitter, probably in the 1890s.

15. SITE - The Echo Office - NW cnr Lyons & Hilliers Streets

Mr Charles McPhee, in an Echo of 1907, says '...the old building in which THE ECHO first saw the light ten years ago, and which stood on a block of land near Mr C Slee's residence, was the first building on the west side of river....' The second and larger building which stood here was moved to the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement when the paper closed in 1982.

16. Bank Corner - NE cnr Lyons & Hilliers Streets

In the beginning this site was home to Newstead's first General Store, owned by David Corbet and then Frederick Phillips. Purchased in 1865 by the Bank of NSW, it later housed the Oriental and National Banks. This new building was constructed in 1910. The Bank has been closed for around 20 years and is now used as a residence. The owners have created the premises next door to house a collection of vintage cars.

17. Newstead Post Office - Lyons Street

A mail service for 3000 people was operated for Newstead and district from 1857 from Joseph Day's, down by the punt, from Langslow's Store, Lyons Street, then from the 1863 Telegraph Office in Panmure Street. This post office was built on high ground in 1910 by William Tonkin and leased to the PMG. The telegraph office ceased in 1934.

