

**10. SITE - Newstead District Road Board Office and Board Room (or Shire Hall) - NE cnr Panmure and Canrobert Street**

On October 12 1860 the Newstead District Road Board was proclaimed. Over the years until the decision in 1865 to create a Shire centred in Newstead, life was troubled and demanding for the members of the Board. Bradfield tells the story of a public meeting called at Marsden's Newstead Hotel on July 22, 1861 to elect a new (legal) Board. Rates of about £200 had been collected when the Board was challenged and found to be 'illegally constituted', a windfall for the late-payers, apparently. Two on-going matters which caused headaches were the state of the roads and the position of the toll-house and gate. The latter was very important for the tolls had to be collected if the roads were to be made. The first Shire of Newstead was proclaimed on February 27 1865.

**11. Former Police Station- 32 Panmure Street**

First (or second?) Police Residence This building was completed in 1870 as the police station. From a tale told of law enforcement in early Newstead it seems that this was the second, not the first, police station. The story suggests that the policeman was compelled to handcuff prisoners to his bedpost - he had no proper lockup until the Courthouse was built (probably in 1867). In the early days a mounted constable lived nearby. Of the 'first' police station, it was written in a 1907 Echo that it was '...on the east side of the football ground a little to the north of Mr Bass Rowe's house....'

**12. Newstead Cemetery - Cemetery Road**

On July 9 1859 four men were appointed as Trustees of the newly established Newstead Cemetery. One of those men, Joseph Day, was prominent in the early life of Newstead. A story has been handed down to us from Joseph Pedler, another early resident, that Joseph Day's only son was tragically killed and that the father was determined to have a proper place for him to be buried.

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VICTORIA**



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Coady, Liz: A STORY OF EARLY NEWSTEAD, 2000, NDHS unpublished paper.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

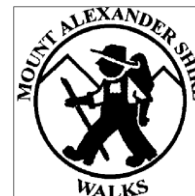
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Updated February 2026

# Newstead Heritage Walks

February 2026



## Law & Order

### A Walk in the Shire of Mount Alexander

Former  
Police  
Station 32  
Panmure  
Street



Newstead &  
District  
Historical  
Society

Walk (or drive) around  
Newstead: visit and share  
the places where people  
have been educated,  
formed and chastised  
since the formation of  
the township over 150  
years ago

Mount Alexander  
Shire Walks and  
Trails Advirory  
Committee

### 1. SITE - Police Paddock - Maryborough Road

On October 11 1859 an entry to the Victorian Government Gazette proclaimed the Extension of the Police Act to the Township of Newstead. Land was then allocated for the conducting of police business. Standing here on the bridge you see the land to the north-west, on the river flats, set aside as the Police Paddock. An early map also shows that a large block on the north-east corner of the Sports Ground was intended for a Police Reserve, possibly where the Courthouse was to have been built.

### 2. The National School - Campbell Street

Was opened on May 1 1859. The growing community had asked for a school as early as 1856 and it is said that classes for about 27 pupils were held in 1857, probably in the large tent used for church services. The building to the left is original and traces of the School's name were still to be seen on the gable until a few years ago. Thomas Martin, in a letter written in the early 1930s, tells of being disciplined at the school. 'When any of us boys misbehaved (the teacher) used to send us among the girls to sew for Punishment. I could hem a handkerchief with the best of them, we did not mind it' he wrote.

### 3. Kinross - Undertaker - Campbell Street

When the School moved to its new site in 1877, the house was bought by James Kinross, bricklayer and builder, who, at some stage undertook this new occupation. Later, around the turn of the century, the ornate front wall was built with, it is said, the bricks from the Loddon Leads Hotel out at 'the Junction'. Kinross' advertisements at that time listed his services as 'Undertaker, Carpenter and Builder'.

### 4. Newstead Police Station & Residence - Lyons Street

The brick house, home to the second (or third) police station, and the stables were probably built about 1895. A correspondent to the Echo in 1907 wrote (of the former police residence) that, around 1890 the police constable '...lost a couple of children to death. He claimed the house was damp and political influence caused the present palatial and totally unnecessary police station to be built....' The present police station was built in 2001.

### 5. Rural Transaction Centre - Lyons Street

On July 19 1968, the officers and staff of the former Shire of Newstead moved here to their new home. As a result of the 1994 Local Government amalgamation brought about by the Kennett State Government, and rationalisation of accommodation and staffing of the newly-formed Shire, the Technical Operations staff took up residence here. The building now houses the Rural Transaction Centre.

### 6. Newstead Primary School - Lyons Street

Here, in 1877, the 124 pupils from the National School across the river moved into their new home. Constructed of locally made bricks, set on bluestone foundations and topped with a slate roof, the school has undergone many changes since to accommodate the local students. History shows that, to date, Frederick W Ellis has probably served for the longest period as head- teacher - 1914 to 1933. A very community- minded man, he was responsible for the erection of the Major Mitchell Cairn opposite, the founding of the School Young Farmers' Club, the creation of the School Brass Band and, in 1928, the planting of the pine trees beyond the Rotunda Park known as the Endowment Plantation.

### 7. SITE - Second Baptist Church - Codrington Street

Opened on this site in July 1863, the new brick building was at one stage host to the proceedings of law enforcement. An article in the Mount Alexander Mail during 1863 was headed 'Sacred Police Court'. It goes on to tell that the weekly Newstead Police Court was held in the Baptist Chapel, humorously describing the scene. Prior to this it seems that the Court had sat at in Newstead Roads Board 'Board Room' and the government had paid £5 per annum for the privilege.

### 8. Old Shire Office - Wyndham Street

As it became impossible for the business of the Shire to be conducted in the very simple former Roads Board office, Council and staff transferred to the Mechanics' Institute from 1902 until the move to this building in 1907. By amalgamation on October 1 1915, the United Shire of Newstead and Mount Alexander was formed. In 1949 this name was shortened to the Shire of Newstead. Full circle, in 1994, again as a result of amalgamation, the former Shire of Newstead became a part of the new Shire of Mount Alexander.

### 9. Former Newstead Courthouse - Canrobert Street

A Court of Petty Sessions was established and operating in Newstead, perhaps as early as June 1860, both as a Police Court and a Licensing Court. Recent research has revealed that, although it was planned in 1863, the Courthouse wasn't built until around 1867. It is interesting to note that the Vaughan Courthouse, built to the same design, was completed in May 1866. For details about this building read the story on the Parks Victoria board in the courtyard.

