

15. **Mechanics' Institute - 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.

16. **Supermarket & Bakery - Lyons Street.** The first building here on the corner and around 1860 was the Sportsman's Arms Hotel, owned by John Henry Allen. Mr Allen was also renowned as a maker of ginger beer. In the late 1860s Alexander McMeikan built a General Store to the left. In 1884 both properties were acquired by Henry Colquhoun. Colquhoun's operated for many years as a General Provisions Merchant, and was advertised as having, "The largest and choicest stock in the district".



17. **SITE - Ibbotson's - Rowe's Coachbuilder & Wheelwright - NE cnr Lyons Street.** William Ibbotson established a Blacksmith and Wheelwright business here very early. It was advertised for sale in September 1862 and was probably acquired then by Richard Rowe and his two sons who operated here for 50 years. This was one of several similar businesses in town at the time,
18. **SITE - Private School - Lyons Street.** Here, where this shop now stands, is the location of Mrs Holloway's Private School which, apparently, 'flourished in the (eighteen) sixties'. The school was conducted in 'a good-sized verandahed cottage' says an account in a 1907 edition of the Echo, and was 'quite a select establishment'.
19. **Masonic Lodge - Former Primitive Methodist Church - Lyons Street.** In the beginning the Primitive Methodists held their services in the home

of William Ibbotson, the first owner of this land. He offered the site to Church members for half of what he had paid and the Church was opened on Sunday 30 November 1860.

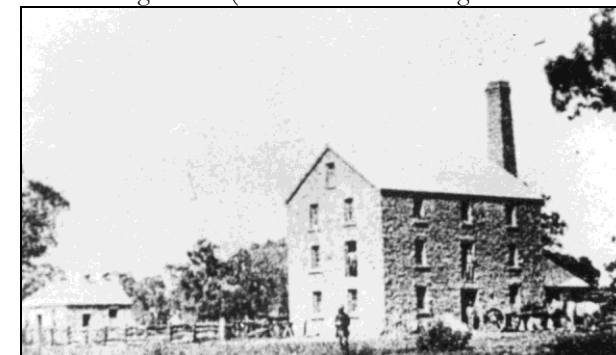
20. **SITE - Corbet's Store - Bank Corner.** It is said that the first store in Newstead was opened on this site. Although the land was officially bought by David Corbet in 1860, we know that a simple wooden Baptist Church was built behind the store by David Corbet and opened in November 1859. Corbet sold to Frederick Phillips and Phillips to the Bank of New South Wales in 1865. A bank building has occupied the corner since.
21. **SITE - Lovell Langslow's Store and Post Office - SE cnr Lyons & Hilliers Streets.** Lovell Langslow was an original buyer of property on both sides of the river. From this site Langslow operated a general store and the postal service that he took over in 1858 from Joseph Day. An advertisement in March 1865 announced that he '...will sell drapery grocery etc and cattle....' but by the end of the year the business was advertised for sale. An earlier article in the Mail (June 1861) describes the gold that Mr Langslow found not far from the town.
22. **SITE - Nomens' Store - SW cnr Lyons & Hilliers Sts.** After the punt had sunk and the bridge was built over the Loddon at Lyons Street, Auguste Nomens transferred his business here from Strangways. By June 1864, Nomens and his partner Frederick Lauer had applied for a liquor licence for their premises on this corner, between the house and the footpath, we are told. In October 1865 Christian Scheel joined Nomens in the business. The present shop was built much later, most likely built early in the 1900s.



23. **Former Newstead Courthouse - Canrobert Street.** A Court of Petty Sessions was established and operating in Newstead as early as June 1860 both as a Police Court and a Licensing Court. Prior to the erection of this building, probably, we now believe, around 1867, hearings were conducted in the Baptist Chapel and, for a short time in the Board Room (or Shire Hall) of the Newstead Roads Board Office. The Parks Victoria board in the courtyard tells the

story of the Courthouse.

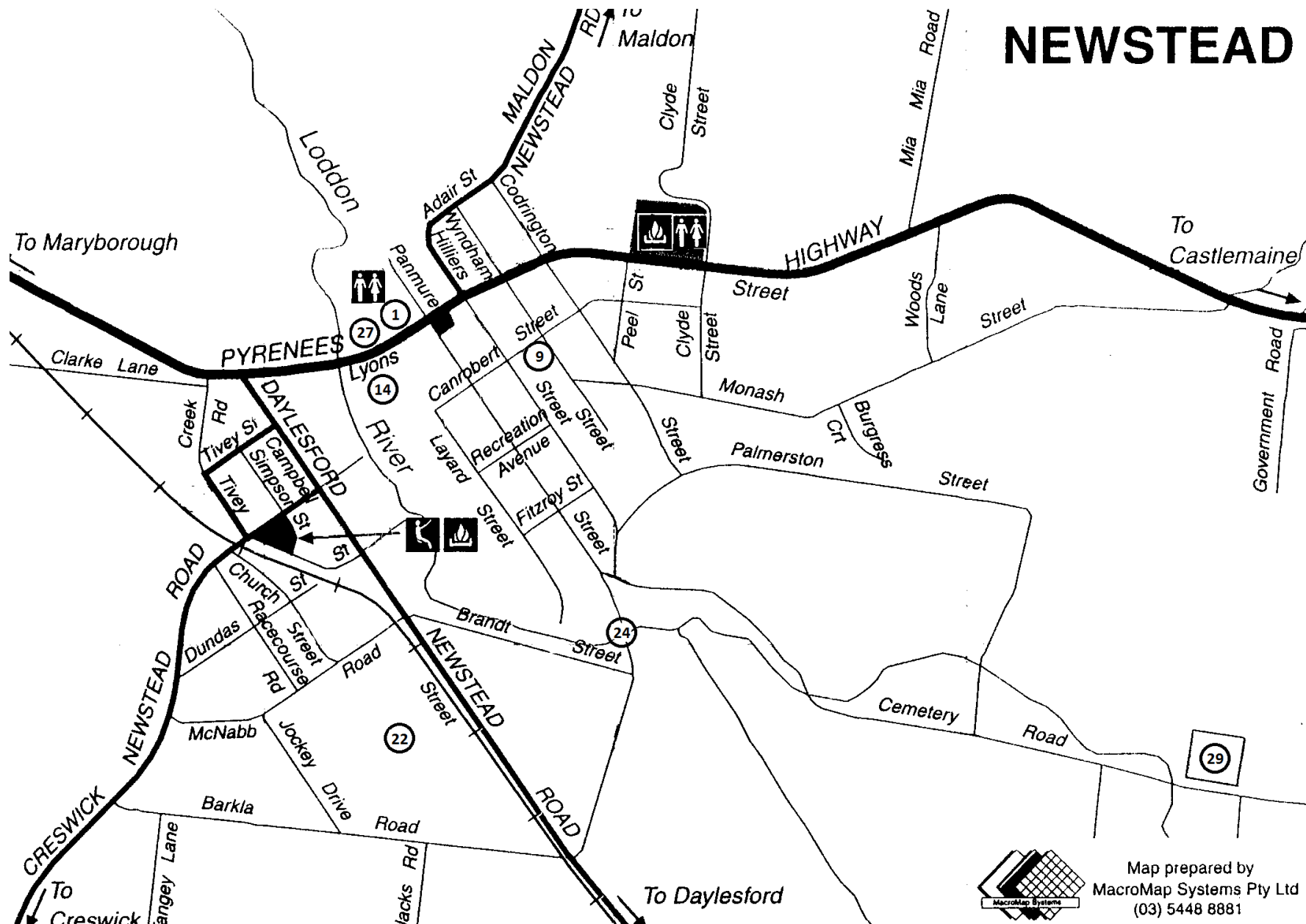
24. **The Old Mill - Layard Street.** The Sheehan family built the mill in 1869. One of several mills in the area, and processing all grains, it employed many people from the township. Water-logged in the devastating 1909 flood, the mill closed in 1914. As there were no buyers, the National Bank, which held a mortgage on the property, moved in and removed anything of value - the slate roof, the Oregon supporting beams and even the roof from the nearby sandstone stables. The mill is now a private residence. Next door was the mill-owner's home. Also built in 1869, it began as a four-roomed cottage of hand-made bricks with a shingle roof (under the later corrugated iron roof).



25. **SITE - Newstead District Roads Board/Shire of Newstead Office - SE cnr Panmure & Canrobert Streets.** An article in the Castlemaine Leader of October 31 1874 describes the building here as '...a small unpretending cottage...a plain unpretentious brick building; but those who now manage the Shire finances wisely determine that it is better to spend all the money they can at present on making roads....'
26. **Former Post Office - SW cnr Panmure & Canrobert Streets.** The third Post Office this building was opened as the Post Office and Telegraph Station in October 1863. First Joseph Day, at his store by the Punt, had been appointed to deliver the mail, and then Lovell Langslow operated a postal service from his store in Lyons Street. Floods eventually forced the relocation of the Post Office in 1910 to the high ground where it stands today.
27. **Anglican Church - Panmure Street.** All Saints Church of England was built in the early part of 1868 for an estimated cost of £450 and was opened by Ven Archdeacon A Crawford. Earlier, from around 1862, Sunday services were held in the Board Room at the Newstead Roads Board offices.

28. **Former Police Station - 32 Panmure Street.** 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). 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,...'

29. **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 the boy to be buried. A Sexton's Cottage was once to be seen here but disappeared not long ago.



Map prepared by
MacroMap Systems Pty Ltd
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Space precludes entering all of the numbers on the map - sites follow one to the other until a specific location is given.

NEWSTEAD

The story on the Golden Way Sign at Newstead Park was written in 1996 and reflects what was believed until recently about the beginnings and naming of Newstead.

New research has revealed that on July 22 1854, Assistant Government Surveyor John Turner's plan for a township entitled St Andrews on the River Loddon was published. Two weeks later, on August 6, exactly the same plan was issued but this time the given name was Newstead.

We know now that the floods of September 1855 caused the cancellation of the plan and a new location was decided on for the town.

Early in 1855 the proprietors of the Newstead Hotel commenced trading at their new premises out on the river flats at Mingus' (or Mingay's) Crossing Place of the Loddon. The crossing was named for the owner of Tarrangower Run and Park Hill - John Menzies, a Scot.

When the site of the town was relocated, the proprietors were quick to move and a new Newstead Hotel appeared in Lyons Street early in 1856....

Newstead & District Historical Society Inc. gratefully acknowledges the support received for the development of the Newstead Heritage Walks from the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund.



**ARTS
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.

Enquiries/Guided Tours
Newstead & District Historical Society Inc.
2 Canrobert St. Newstead 3462

Current contact detail on website
<https://ndhs-vic.github.io/ndhs/>

Updated February 2026

Newstead Heritage Walks

February 2026



Creating a Township

A Walk in the
Shire of Mount
Alexander

The
Newstead
Hotel 1856-
1931



Newstead &
District
Historical
Society

Mount Alexander
Shire Walks and
Trails Advirory
Committee

Walk (or drive)
around Newstead:

Reflect on the
infrastructure of the
township over 150 years
ago.

The commitment of
those who established it

1. **Newstead Park- Newstead Hotel.** Newstead Park is the site of the Newstead Hotel, almost certainly the first building to appear in Lyons Street. Built early in 1856 of wooden construction, it burnt down in 1931. The hotel was the centre of much local activity and competed with Richardson's Bridge Inn on the opposite corner for patronage.
2. **Crown Hotel - The Ship Inn.** A Bakery and Store was established here by Joseph Day in 1857. Plans for a brewery seem to have been abandoned in favour of an hotel - 'The Ship Inn'. The new owner, John Treacy (previously the mounted police constable) probably renamed it 'Crown' after his purchase in December 1866.



3. **The Bridge.** When the site of Newstead was moved upstream James Jones and Frederick Beard were quick to rebuild their Newstead Hotel in the new location. Because of their experience with the difficulty of crossing the Loddon at Mings' Crossing Place, on March 14 1856, even before the official land sales in Lyons Street, they had advertised for a man to build a bridge over the Loddon. This privately owned bridge seems never to have been totally successful, at times causing great dissension, and a deputation was sent to Melbourne in November 1859 to negotiate for a government bridge. A contract was awarded to T G Green in January of 1861 and the first of three official bridges was built. (Details of all three bridges can be found on the Cairn to the north-east of the bridge.)
4. **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 and land was allocated by government surveyors 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.

5. **The Old Tree - Tivey Street.** Very early in the establishment of the township of Newstead, possibly in 1856, the 'first Divine Service' was held under this beautiful redgum tree. A Congregational layman named Blackwell from Castlemaine, with Methodist and Presbyterian support, conducted the combined service.
6. **The 'Railway' Park - Ballarat Road.** Plan N42 (March 2 1855 and developed) shows that the Agricultural Society had been given land here where this park is now but the allotment was cancelled. The second choice was land bounded by what we call Church, Dundas and Racecourse Streets and the Ballarat Road and this too was cancelled. The formation of the Agricultural Society was recorded in the MAM on June 11 1858, and the first Ploughing Match of the Society, to be held on June 25 1858, was advertised in the same paper. Tenders for fencing the 'Agricultural Society's Show Yards', were called for in a MAM of January 20 1860. But where? A correspondent in a 1907 Echo says '... The old show yards have even quite disappeared....'
7. **Presbyterian Manse - Dundas Street.** The first Presbyterian Minister, John Sutherland, arrived in Newstead from Scotland in 1861. Mr Sutherland built his home, *Hepzibah*, on the north corner of Hilliers and Fitzroy Streets. He lived there until he died in 1865, travelling to the Church across the river by way of a privately constructed footbridge. The house is built in Victorian style, based on granite plinths, topped by local brick and jarrah from Western Australia bought on the wharves at Geelong. Mr Minty was the first Minister to occupy the manse around 1867.
8. **St Andrews Presbyterian Church - Church Street.** On January 16 1860, this land was set aside and Trustees appointed for a Free Presbyterian Church. After some delay, the building of the Church, using local bricks and assisted by voluntary labour, was completed and dedicated in late November of the same year. The building is now privately owned.
9. **Racecourse/Recreation Reserve - Racecourse Drive.** Horse-racing in the area began very early and land was set aside as a Newstead Racing and Recreation Reserve on Plan N42. Meetings were held on the course by 1860 and continued annually for many years.
10. **National School - Campbell Street.** The National School was opened on May 1 1859. The growing community had asked for a school as early as 1856, seeking the aid, at that stage of the Denominational Board. Uncertainty about which denomination caused

concerned parents to turn to the National Board. School lessons were then being taught in a large tent used for church services on the Racecourse site. By the time the School moved in 1877, this school, capable at best of housing 60 pupils, somehow accommodated closer to 160.

11. **The Punt - Brandt Street.** The story of the ill-fated punt has disappeared into the mists of time, perhaps never to be recovered. We know that it was paid for by the newly-formed Government of the Colony of Victoria, possibly in 1855, and that it cost £2,000. We also know that by November 1857 it had sunk irretrievably, with '...only part of the upper rail being visible...' Who was responsible for it being built or why it was necessary to have a punt in that location we can but guess.
12. **The Shambles - Lyons Street.** 'Shambles', according to the Oxford Dictionary, means 'Butcher's slaughter-house...'. And so the name dates, not to the original owners of the land - James and Mary Monks, and then Charles Ingram Marsden - but to Charles Slee, butcher, who bought the land in 1863. The Sleees, Edgar and Charles, were amongst the earliest arrivals in the area and were prominent participants in the life of the township.
13. **The Old Bakery - Lyons Street.** From the late 1860s, the baker, in a 'stylish American leather suspension cart', delivered his goods fresh from the ovens in this building. William Sutherland, who also conducted the biscuit factory at the Junction, bought the property in 1867 and in May 1886 it passed to Thomas Toulon, another baker. Runge's red paint, made locally but with no remaining traces of the paint factory in Hilliers Street, was used on both the shop and residence.
14. **Boots - Lyons Street.** There was probably a shop here from least 1863 but all that can be said with certainty is that Edward Arthur Rowe acquired property here in January 1889. Prominent in town and Council affairs, he set himself up here as a Bootmaker and Repairer.

