



The Rail to River Heritage Trail brings together the rich stories of Collie’s living heritage. The 2.8km trail weaves a path through town, connecting the historic railyards in the town centre with the sacred Collie River, past sites of shared significance.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Rail to River Heritage Trail is located, the Wilman people of the Bibbulmun nation, and pay our respects to First Nations people.



PLACES OF HERITAGE

1 GOODS SHED (1898)



Photo: slwa_b3507768.1

The Goods Shed, designed by C.Y. O'Connor, is a remnant of what was once a busy railway yard. The yard contained 11 railway lines at its peak and was second only to Fremantle in size.

2 ROWLAND'S CORNER (1926)



Photo: Supplied by Collie Local Studies Collection

In the years following the colonisation of the south-west in 1829, the town of Collie was established alongside the development of industry in the area in the late 1890s. This lot was taken up by D.W. Jones, one of the first settlers to move into the area.

3 DORSETT'S CORNER (1925)



Photo: slwa_b2908076.1

Alongside Rowland's Corner, Dorsett's Corner provides a connection to 1920s commerce in the town of Collie. Dorsett's Corner was established in 1925 by the Dorsett Family.

4 THE COLLIE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY (1937)



Photo: Supplied by Collie Local Studies Collection

This store, built in 1937, was the base of operations for 45 years of Collie Co-operative Society – the first co-operative store in WA, and the largest of its kind at the time.

5 SOLDIERS' PARK (1921)



Photo: Supplied by Michele-maree Gannaway

Soldiers' Park was established in 1921, following the end of WWI. It has been said that the small town of Collie sent more of its population away to war, on a per capita basis, than any other community in Australia.

5 WAR MONUMENT (1921)



Photo: slwa_b3507748.1

The War Monument commemorates Collie's servicemen and women who have served in all wars and conflicts.

5 MEMORIAL ROSE GARDENS (1990)



Photo: Sourced from Memories of Collie

These gardens commemorate all Collie's war dead. Centre plaques honour Corporal Martin O'Meara, awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Pozieres in 1916, and Private Ken Sketchley, who died in 1950 as the first Australian soldier killed in the Korean War.

5 MEMORIAL TO ABORIGINAL SERVICEMEN (2000)



Photo: slwa_b3588965.3

The Memorial to Aboriginal Servicemen commemorates the contribution of Aboriginal servicemen and women to the defence of Australia, in all wars. Before this memorial was erected, the service of these men and women was not recognised in war memorials.

6 COLLIE RIVER / MARDALUP



Photo: slwa_b3507767.1

The Collie River has an important place in Collie's history and heritage. The Collie, Brunswick and Preston Rivers are together known as Mardalup. In Wilman culture, the Collie River is explained by the creation story of the Ngarngungudditj Walgu, or the hairy faced snake – the creator of all waterways.

7 RIVER CAMPS (EARLY TO MID 1900S)



Photo: Supplied

In the early to mid 1900s, there was a curfew for Aboriginal people, who were not allowed into the Collie townsite outside specific hours. Permanent camps were established along the other side of the Collie River, outside the boundaries of the townsite. Each family group had a place where they would camp.

8 COLLIE-NARROGIN RAILWAY (1906-8)



Photo: Sourced from Memories of Collie

The Collie-Narrogin Railway began operating between 1906 and 1908. The line served districts between Collie and Darkan, transporting timber, farm produce, live-stock and grain. Before the widespread introduction of the car, a passenger service was also available.

9 WALLSEND MINE (1893)



Photo: Supplied by Michele-maree Gannaway

The Wallsend Mine was one of Collie's first coal mines. Settlers found coal on the banks of the Collie River in the 1880s. The town of Coalville was declared in 1897, and then formally renamed Collie in 1899.

10 HIGH CHAPARRAL CAMP (EARLY TO MID 1900S)

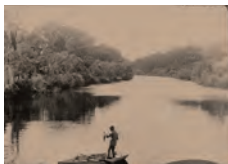


Photo: slwa_b3507768.1

Due to the government-imposed curfew, Aboriginal people were forced to establish homes along the other side of the river's foreshore. High Chaparral was one of these camps. People endured bad times here, but had good times, too – swimming, fishing, camping and marooning on the river.

11 COLLIE-CARDIFF RAILWAY (1903)



Photo: Supplied by Michele-maree Gannaway

The Collie-Cardiff Railway was constructed in 1903, to service Collie's growing coal industry. Prior to its construction, the town was served by the Collie-Bunswick line which opened in 1898.

12 FEDERAL HOTEL (1901)



Photo: Supplied by Collie Local Studies Collection

The Federal Hotel was constructed in 1908 to provide new facilities for the town during the rapid development of the early 1900s. Designed by the government architect of the time, Hillson Beasley, it is typical of early Post Office architecture.

13 OLD POST OFFICE (1908)



Photo: slwa_b3507781.1

Collie's Old Post Office was constructed in 1908 to provide new facilities for the town during the rapid development of the early 1900s. Designed by the government architect of the time, Hillson Beasley, it is typical of early Post Office architecture.

14 OLD POLICE STATION (1921-26)



Photo: slwa_b3280894.1

Collie's Old Police Station building was constructed between 1921 and 1926, about 20 years after Collie's first police constable was stationed in the town.

15 COLLIE COURT HOUSE (1913)



Photo: Supplied by Michele-maree Gannaway

Collie Court House is associated with the rapid development of Collie from the early 1900s. There was a desire to improve the existing justice facilities in town, prompting the construction of this new, permanent courthouse in 1913.

16 COLLIE MINEWORKERS' INSTITUTE (1953)



Photo: slwa_b3169286.5

Collie Mineworkers' Institute was opened in 1953. Designed by John Fitzharding, it was financed largely by the Collie Coal Miners Welfare Board.

17 PHOENIX PARK (1990)



Photo: Sourced from Memories of Collie

Phoenix Park is the site of memorials commemorating mining and the lives of those who worked and died in the industry.

17 MEMORIAL COAL ARCH (1952)



Photo: Supplied

The Memorial Coal Arch was relocated from the Western No.1 Underground mine entrance in 1999. It is one of the few surviving examples of a mine entrance from the Collie coalfields.

17 COAL MINERS SKIP (1994) & PIT PONY STATUE (2021)



Photo: slwa_b188 C_1471

The replica coal skip was erected in 1994 to mark the closure of underground mines in Collie, and to recognise the contribution that underground miners made from 1890 onwards. The Pit Pony Statue honours the role of pit ponies in Collie mines from the 1920s to 1960.

17 MINING DEATHS MEMORIAL (2003)



Photo: Supplied

The Mining Deaths Memorial was erected in 2003 by the Collie Retired Miners Association in memory of the people who have lost their lives on the Collie coalfields.

18 CWA HALL (1925)



Photo: Sourced from CWA Facebook

The Collie Country Women's Association has been in operation since 1925. In the years following WWI, the Association raised the funds to build the Collie CWA Hall, which was used for dances most weekends, for playing cards, and for local meetings.

19 THROSSELL ST HERITAGE PRECINCT



Photo: slwa_b3507761.1

The Throssell Street Heritage Precinct provides a connection to early 1900s commerce in the town of Collie, with several hotels and commercial buildings developed that are still in use today.

19 COLLIEFIELDS HOTEL (1898)



Photo: slwa_b3507761.1

The Colliefields Hotel, over 100 years old, continues to form a landmark in Collie. From around the 1860s, 'Uncle Tom's Bar' – a segregated area – operated from this hotel. This was the only bar in town that allowed access to Aboriginal people, until many decades later.

19 FORMER SITE OF COLLIE MEAT SUPPLY (1935)



Photo: Western Mail 25 April 1935, p26

On 21 May 1909, a fire destroyed the wooden shops between the Colliefields Hotel and the Crown Hotel. Rebuilding followed. Collie Meat Supply was one of the businesses that operated from this site in later years, between 1935 until 1939. The building was demolished some decades ago.

19 BOND'S PHARMACY BUILDING (AFTER 1909)



Photo: slwa_b3507707.1

Bond's Pharmacy Building provides a connection to early commerce in the town of Collie. It features one of the very few remaining original double storey verandahs in Collie, constructed after the fire of 1909.

19 CROWN HOTEL (1901)



Photo: Supplied by Collie Local Studies Collection

The Crown Hotel was constructed in the Federation Filigree style of architecture in about 1901. Like the Colliefields Hotel, it has been a social venue for many years, having been in continuous operation as a hotel since 1901.

19 BILBE'S BUILDING (1900)



Photo: Supplied by Michele-maree Gannaway

Bilbe's Building is a two-storey brick and iron commercial building constructed in about 1900 in the Federation Anglo-Dutch style of architecture. It is a significant building which formed part of the early commercial centre of Collie. A grocery store operated from this building for many years.

19 VICTORIA HOTEL (1889-1910)



Photo: slwa_b3507782.1

The Victoria Hotel is a two-storey brick and iron hotel constructed between 1888 and 1910. It's a good example of a hotel constructed in the Federation Filigree style of architecture. Today, the Victoria Hotel continues to operate as a hotel and is known as 'The Vic'.

20 STATION TREE & TRAIN STATION (REPLICA: 2004)



Photo: slwa_008008d.

The Station Tree is a London Plane Tree that was planted by settlers in the 1890s outside the town's newly constructed train station. The Railway Station was opened in 1898. The station that stands today is a replica, rebuilt and opened in 2004 after the demolition of the original station in the 1970s.

21 RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE (1913)



Photo: Supplied by Collie Local Studies Collection

Collie's Railway Footbridge is a rare surviving example of a rural railway footbridge. Work on the footbridge commenced in 1913. It has undergone significant restoration works in recent years.

A ALL SAINTS' CHURCH (1915-28)



Photo: slwa_b3507776.1

All Saints' Church, a demonstration of the Byzantine and Romanesque styles, was built in 1915. The interior of the Church includes a mural by the artist Philip Goatcher.

B FREEMASON LODGE (1937)



Photo: Supplied

Collie's first Freemason Lodge was opened in 1901 and flourished with the formation of a further four lodges over the next 50 years, before a decline set in and all but the original closed. The building that stands on this site today was constructed in 1937.

C OLD ROAD BOARD OFFICE (1930)



Photo: slwa_b2908074.1

The Old Road Board Office is a brick and tile building that was constructed in the Interwar Free Classical style in 1930. Today, the Old Road Board Office is part of the Coalfields Museum and Historical Research Centre.

D BAARNIMARR RECONCILIATION PARK (1997)



Photo: Courtesy of Taj Kempe

This park is named in honour of respected Elder Joseph Northover Senior and all Wilman people of past and present generations. Opposite the park there once stood a big peppermint tree which had great importance to the Wilman community. The old people would gather under this tree to sit, yarn, joke and laugh.

E PREMIER HOTEL (1901)



Photo: slwa_b3507800.1

The growth of Collie in the early 1900s, with the development of coal mining and the expansion of the timber industry, brought with it several entrepreneurs keen to establish hotels to cater to the growing population. The Premier Hotel was opened in 1901.

F PALMER'S BUILDING (1937)



Photo: Supplied

Palmer's Building is associated with the timber trade in Collie. The Palmer Family were early settlers in the Collie township area. Richard Palmer established a sawmill and wood yard on Medic Street, near this site, in the early 1930s. Following this, he built this residence nearby, in 1937.

G THE COLLIE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY BRIDGE (1967)



Photo: slwa_b3507846.1

Construction of the original bridge at this site commenced in 1900. Floods have been a regular occurrence in Collie – in 1915, 1926, 1964 and 1982. The river was dredged after the 1964 flood. This bridge was replaced in 1967 with assistance from the Collie Co-operative Store.

H COLLIE ARBORETUM (1922)



Photo: Sourced from Collie River Valley webpage

This area was originally part of the Government Mine Lease taken up by Deakin in 1898, with the lease covering both sides of the river in this area. The Collie Arboretum was established in 1922. Trees are a mixture of species from Australia, North America and the Caribbean.

I COLLIE-CARDIFF RSL AND MILITARY DISPLAY



Photo: Courtesy of Taj Kempe

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) was founded in 1916 to ensure a unified approach to address the lack of organised repatriation facilities and medical services available to those returning from service in the Great War.



Photo: Supplied by Michele-maree Gannaway

HERITAGE SITES WITHIN MAP EXTENTS

- 1

GOODS SHED
FORREST ST
- 2

ROWLAND'S CORNER
36 FORREST ST
- 3

DORSETT'S CORNER
70 STEERE ST N
- 4

THE COLLIE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY
20 JOHNSTON ST
- 5

SOLDIERS' PARK
(WAR MONUMENT , MEMORIAL ROSE GARDENS & MEMORIAL TO ABORIGINAL SERVICEMEN)
CORNER OF JOHNSTON ST & STEERE ST N
- 6

COLLIE RIVER
10 LEFROY ST
- 7

RIVER CAMPS
ALONG THE COLLIE RIVER
- 8

COLLIE-NARROGIN RAILWAY
- 9

WALLSEND MINE
BETWEEN COLLIE RIVER & THROSSELL ST
- 10

HIGH CHAPARRAL CAMP
- 11

COLLIE-CARDIFF RAILWAY
- 12

FEDERAL HOTEL
47 THROSSELL ST
- 13

OLD POST OFFICE
63 THROSSELL ST
- 14

OLD POLICE STATION
67 THROSSELL ST
- 15

COLLIE COURTHOUSE
CNR WITTENOOM ST & PENDLETON ST
- 16

COLLIE MINeworkERS' INSTITUTE
CNR THROSSELL ST & PATTERSON ST
- 17

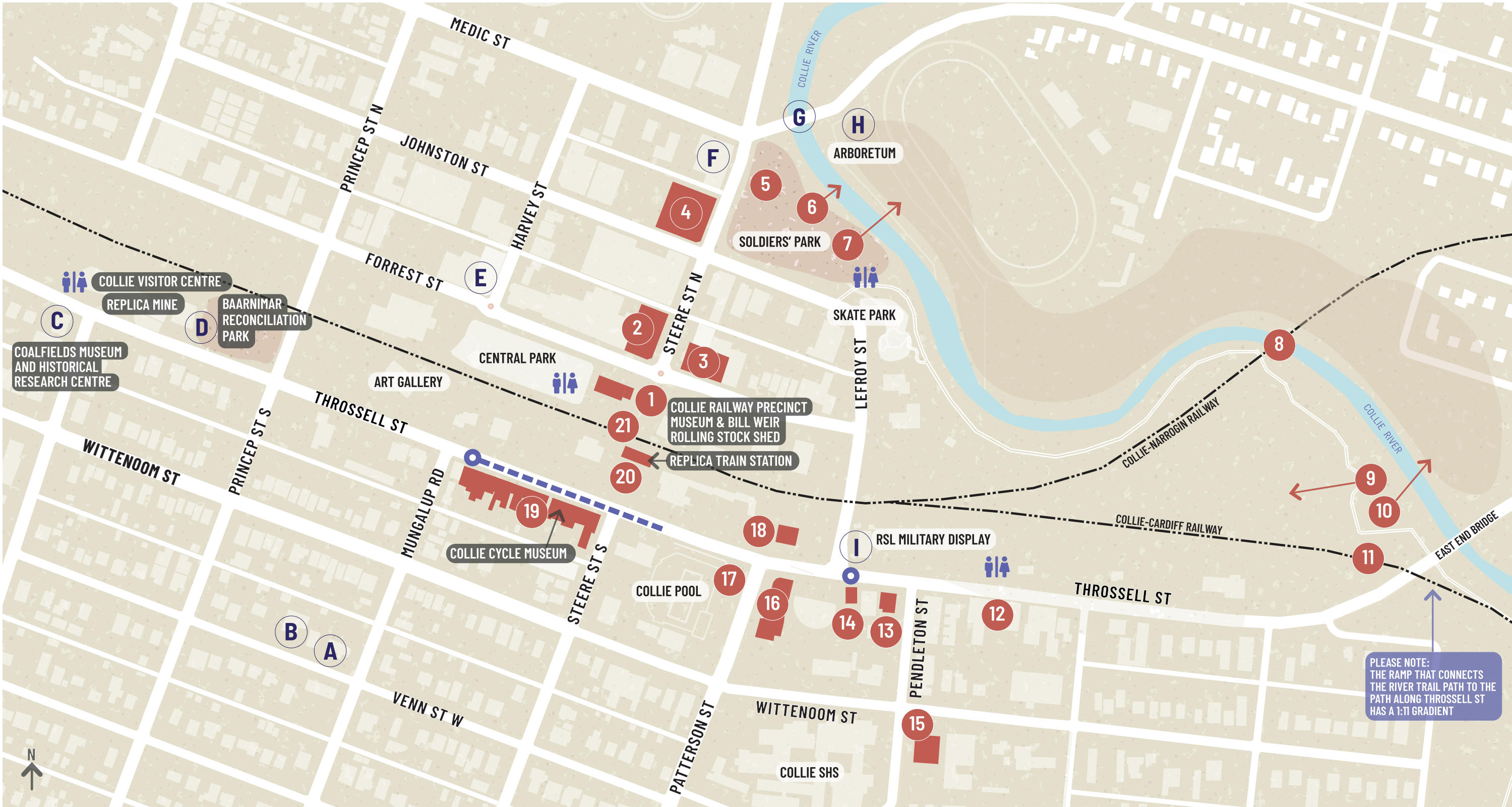
PHOENIX PARK
(MEMORIAL COAL ARCH, COAL MINERS SKIP, PIT PONY STATUE, MINING DEATHS MEMORIAL)
79 THROSSELL ST
- 18

CWA HALL
76 THROSSELL ST
- 19

THROSSELL STREET HERITAGE PRECINCT
(COLLIEFIELDS HOTEL, FORMER SITE OF COLLIE MEAT SUPPLY, BOND'S PHARMACY BUILDING, CROWN HOTEL, BILBE'S BUILDING, & VICTORIA HOTEL)
91 -121 THROSSELL ST
- 20

STATION TREE & REPLICA TRAIN STATION
86 THROSSELL ST
- 21

RAILWAY FOOTBRIDGE
PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE, CONNECTING THROSSELL ST & FORREST ST



OTHER SITES OF INTEREST WITHIN MAP EXTENTS

- A

ALL SAINT'S CHURCH
46 VENN ST W
- B

FREEMASON LODGE
50 VENN ST W
- C

OLD ROAD BOARD OFFICE
161 THROSSELL ST
- D

BAARNIMAR RECONCILIATION PARK
THROSSELL ST
- E

PREMIER HOTEL
86 FORREST ST
- F

PALMER'S BUILDING
91 STEERE ST N
- G

THE COLLIE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY BRIDGE
CNR COOMBES ST & STEERE ST N
- H

COLLIE ARBORETUM
COOMBES STREET, NEAR THE CO-OP BRIDGE
- I

COLLIE-CARDIFF RSL MILITARY DISPLAY
COLLIE-CARDIFF RSL SUB-BRANCH
BY APPT. CONTACT COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE

MUSEUMS, CENTRES AND REPLICAS

- COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE
156 THROSSELL ST
- COLLIE REPLICA UNDERGROUND COAL MINE
156 THROSSELL ST
- COALFIELDS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTRE
161 THROSSELL ST
- COLLIE REPLICA TRAIN STATION
86 THROSSELL ST. BY APPT. CONTACT COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE
- COLLIE RAILWAY PRECINCT MUSEUM & BILL WEIR ROLLING STOCK SHED
FORREST ST
- COLLIE CYCLE MUSEUM
93 THROSSELL ST. BY APPT. CONTACT COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE



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#collieheritage

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The Rail to River Heritage Trail is part of the Wambenger Trails network.

