

# The Nannup Tiger

This local legend is about the thylacine - a large dog like creature, with a heavy, stiff tail and a big head and was once Australia's largest marsupial carnivore.

Some say it reached up to 180 cm (6 feet) from nose to tail, stood about 58cm (2 feet) high at the shoulder and weighed up to 30kg. Its short, soft brown fur had anywhere from 13 to 20 dark stripes hence its pseudonym as a tiger.

Usually mute, the thylacine was shy and secretive and if captured, gave up easily with many dying suddenly, apparently from shock. It preferred open forest and grasslands but by the end of its existence (it was declared extinct in 1936) it was confined to dense forests by human pressure.

Nannup's terrain is "tiger territory" and sightings continue to be made around the forested areas in the region. Although many are not officially reported for fear the tiger will become a target of bounty hunters.

So is the Nannup tiger still out there eluding capture and the camera lens and surviving in our pristine forest environment?



# How To Find Nannup

Located at the heart of WA's South West, Nannup is located 280kms (approximately two and a half hours) south of Perth.

The gateway to the south west, Nannup is encircled by rolling hills, fertile orchards and the mighty Blackwood River.

Linking three of WA's most scenic tourist drives, the vibrant tourism town can be easily accessed via Vasse and Brockman Highways and the scenic Balingup to Nannup Road.

Just 30-40 minutes from Bridgetown, Balingup, Busselton, Pemberton, Augusta and Manjimup and approximately one hour to Margaret River.

We hope you enjoy your stay in our beautiful township.



## Nannup Visitor Information Service

10 Warren Road Nannup WA 6275

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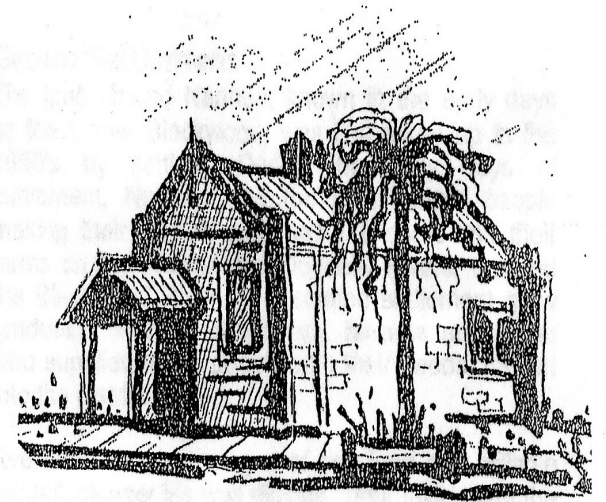
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# Nannup's Heritage

Take a stroll down memory lane...



## Nannup's Old Road Board Building

A local historical monument in itself, this beautiful old building houses a very comprehensive history of Nannup from early settlement to today. This building houses the Nannup Historical Society. Open by appointment and on special event weekends.

# Nannup's Heritage

The earliest recorded European exploration of the Nannup area was in 1834 when a small party headed by Thomas Turner set out from Augusta to trace the Blackwood River upstream to its source. Nannup is reportedly named after one of the Aboriginal guides on his expedition and means "place to stop and rest".

The township of Nannup developed around a ford crossing on the Blackwood River. In 1866 a bridge was built using convict labour. On January 9th, 1890 the townsite of Nannup was officially declared. Agriculture and timber milling were the primary sources of income for the region.

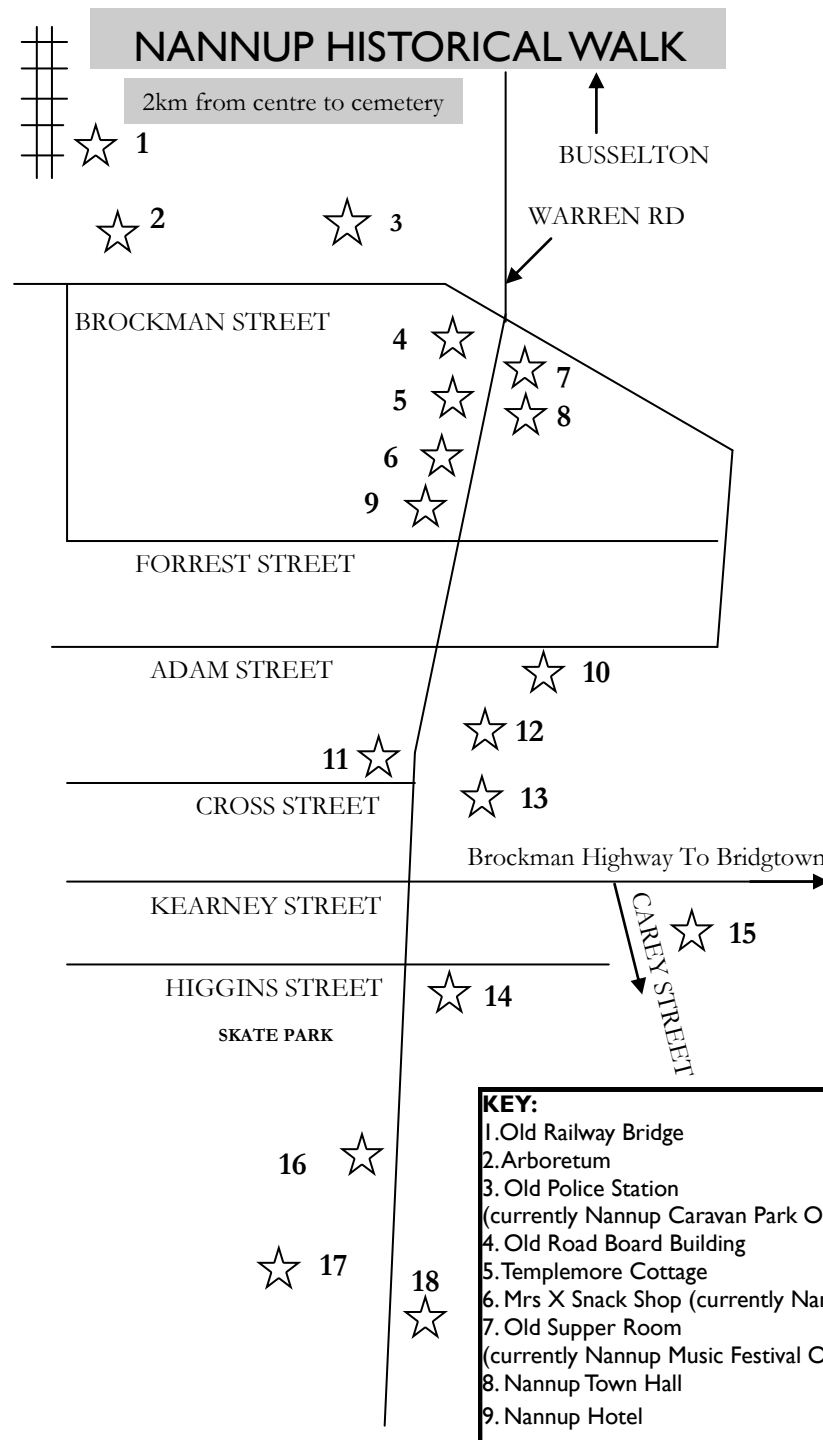
Today as the timber industry faces major restructuring, agriculture, viticulture, aquaculture, tourism and refined wood products are the sustaining industries of the region. Numerous festivals now also celebrate the modern Nannup and all that it has to offer its 1300 residents.

Perth was once 17 to 20 days away from Nannup as pioneers travelled by horse and buggy. Today, with the luxury of modern vehicles and the new Perth to Bunbury highway, that journey now takes about two and a half hours.

Busselton and Bunbury farming families took up farming leases in the Lower Blackwood region in the 1850's and 60's with cattle, sheep and dairy farming the main agricultural pursuits. Many of the local houses were built from hand sawn timbers after forests were cleared using axe and bullock teams. Recognised families such as the Longbottoms, Dunnedts, Kearneys, Brockmans, Blythes, Higgins, Dicksons and Lindsays were prominent local pioneers with local streets, highways and properties still bearing their names and families still thriving in the district.

## The Railways

The establishment of the railway line in 1909 not only ensured the sustainability of the timber industry, but also improved communication, mail and health services and offered passenger transport. Perth was now only one day away. With improved roads and the development of motor transport the use of the railway declined until it ceased operation in 1984. Evidence of the old railways now include the restored bridge over the Blackwood River at the Nannup Caravan Park.



## The Aborigines of the South West

Nannup was an important meeting place for the Wardandi and Bibbulmum people. It is believed that the Wardandi people's country took in Busselton, Margaret River, Augusta and Nannup and the Bibbulmun people's country ran along the south coast from Donnelly River to Broke Inlet.

## The Timber Industry

The abundance of quality hardwood timber led to a number of timber mills in the region including settlements at Barrabup in 1908 and Ellis Creek in 1913. Exhaustion of concession areas and the transfer of operations to Nannup led to the dismantling of the mills in 1925. A combined steam driven timber operation was established at the present Nannup Timber Processing mill and the timber industry is still alive there today. The Nannup Arboretum is the result of an experimental planting of trees to see which ones thrived in the area.

## River and Floods

The Blackwood river is an integral part of Nannup's history. Flooding has been recorded regularly since 1913, the most recent in 1982 when much of the townsite was under water. An iconic tree near the restored railway bridge behind the caravan park recorded flood levels with markers placed on the tree but tragically for locals who loved to show the tree to visitors, it gave into wild weather and strong currents in September 2009.