The main street of Meadows, c1905.

View of Meadows from the Pioneer Wesleyan Cemetery, 1953.

Early settlers' cottage built of wattle and daub with a thatch roof, c1888.

Contact Information

For further information on the Adelaide Hills go to **www.AdelaideHills.org.au**

Meadows Community Association
www.meadowssa.org.au

Battunga Country Tourism Association
www.battunga.org.au

A Guide to Meadows Heritage Walk

Meadows Heritage Walk

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Welcome to Meadows! This walk guides you around the centre of Meadows to discover and enjoy some of its fascinating history.

The entire walk is about 2.5 km long, and will take less than an hour at a slow pace whilst allowing time to enjoy the scenery. Why not take time out to enjoy the local galleries, cafes and bakery as well, or end your walk with a picnic in Battunga Park?

The walk starts in Battunga Park, near the intersection of Mawson and Battunga Roads.

1 Battunga Park

This region of the Adelaide Hills was home to the Peramangk people, who called it Battunga country, meaning place of big trees. The interpretive sign tells you about the early days of Meadows, from the first survey in 1839.

Head towards the red brick hall. The next sign is near the creek, on your way to the hall.

2 Battunga Park, near the creek

This park was created in 1939 as a place for travellers to rest and picnic in the shade. As part of Meadows' 150th anniversary celebrations in 2009, the Meadows Creek was revegetated by community members. Since then, many more bird and animal species have been reported. In 2011, the District Council of Mt Barker upgraded the playground and park facilities.

As you walk to the hall, there is an old apple tree on your left. It is connected to some of Meadows' earliest settlers. The tree was planted behind the Nottage family's home - a simple four-room cottage with a lean-to. The family donated the land to the community for a kindergarten. The tree is more than 60 years old, and may be a Gravenstein variety.

3 Meadows Memorial Hall

This building may look unusual for a hall. That's because it was originally a butter factory. Read about its fascinating past and present uses on the interpretive sign. The popular Meadows Easter Fair is held here each day over the Easter weekend.

There used to be two dairy factories in Meadows. The other one is 2 km north of the township along Kondoparinga Road, and is home to a gallery.

The paving at the front of the hall was laid during the 150th anniversary celebrations in 2009. Many current and former residents bought pavers to commemorate their families, businesses and local clubs and associations.

Walk eastwards along the main street until you reach the butcher's shop. As you walk, notice the old stone house at number 61. It was originally the Church of England rectory, and is now a private residence.

4 Meadows Butchers, 65 Mawson Road

Meadows used to have several butchers' shops. This shop has operated continuously as a butcher's since it was built in 1937. Before that, the side room of the adjacent house was used.

5 General Stores, 69 Mawson Road

Residents of Meadows used to be able to do all their shopping in the town's general stores. Find out on the interpretive sign about all the services provided.

6 Former Oddfellow's Hall, 71 Mawson Road

This lovely old hall is built of local stone, and has had many uses. Find out who the Oddfellows were on the interpretive sign.

Continue along Mawson Road. On your left is the entrance to the Meadows Oval, home to the Meadows Football, Cricket, Tennis and Netball clubs and the famous Meadows Annual Country Fair, held on the third Sunday of October each year.

The oval was set aside as a recreation ground in the 1890s. The Meadows Agricultural Committee had a hall near the entrance where they held agricultural shows.
The Meadows Primary School is on your left after the oval. The school moved here in 1910, into the stone building. Since then, many new buildings have been added.

Cross over Kondoparinga Road at the intersection, and continue along the main street to the Post Office.

7 Meadows Post Office, 85 Mawson Road

The post office was built in 1884. Postal services had been available since 1850, although they weren't always reliable. Find out why on the interpretive sign.

This part of the main street has been the location of many businesses. The interpretive sign tells you about them.

Cross the main street, and walk down the narrow street opposite the Post Office - Flaxman Road. Turn left at the T-junction into Mill Street. Continue to the end of Mill Street, then take the dirt road on your right, up the hill. The cemetery is about 200 metres along the road. The walk is moderately steep, so you may want to take your time. The view at the top and the historic cemetery are well worth the climb. There is a park bench at the top for you to rest on.

Please note that this dirt road is a drive-way to a private residence, as well as the path to the cemetery. Please respect the owner's privacy.

Continue up the hill, past the house, where you will need to pass through two gates. Please close the gates on your way in and out.

8 Meadows Pioneer Wesleyan Cemetery

This peaceful and picturesque place was the site of the first chapel in Meadows, built in the 1840s for the Wesleyan Methodists. It was replaced by another chapel in 1856, in the centre of the land where the interpretive sign is placed. By 1877, the congregation no longer wanted to walk up the hill, especially in winter. Perhaps you can empathise with them! The third chapel was built on flat ground in the main street, near the Post Office.

The first recorded burial here was in 1855. The interpretive sign lists all the known burials. Keep an eye out for the unusual red-gum grave markers. They have been restored and protected by the Battunga Country Lions Club.

The cemetery has been the site of archaeological studies. Find out about them on the interpretive sign in the cemetery.

Walk down the hill to Mill Street again. Mill Street was the site of the first flour mill, established by the pioneer farmer, Robert Burley. In the early days, farmers grew wheat here. Later they realised it was not ideal wheat country, and the mill was converted to a timber mill. Mill Street was also home to the first general store, which housed the school and post office as well.

Continue along Mill Street until you reach St George's Church on your right. The interpretive sign is on the narrow unnamed street connecting Mill Street with Mawson Road.

9 St George's Anglican Church

This lovely church is the only original church building left in Meadows. The interpretive sign lists the burials in the small churchyard at the side and rear of the church. Some distinguished South Australians have been buried here.

At the end of the unnamed street, turn left into the main street again.

10 Former Meadows Institute and Council Chambers

These two buildings, and the small stone building to the rear, made up the civic heart of Meadows. It's hard to imagine a present-day council and library fitting into such small buildings! Find out about their original uses on the interpretive sign.

Continue westward along the main street to the Meadows Bakery.

11 Former Meadows Schoolhouse

Now a bakery, this building was the original schoolmaster's residence. The first school building used to be next door. You can see what it looked like on the interpretive sign.

On your way back to the park, pause to see the War Memorial and garden next to the bakery.

This is the end of the walk. We hope you have enjoyed it. Continue along the main street to the park and your starting point, and please come again!