CLARE
Historic Walk

Devised for your enjoyment by ...
Lions Club of Clare District
& Clare Regional History Group

May we suggest you begin your walk around the Clare Township at the Lions Park in Victoria Road, then follow the numbers on the map inside

Approximate time for walk: 1.5 to 2 hours
(not including Clare General Cemetery)

1. LIONS PARK

Your starting point. The park was established and is maintained by the Lions Club of Clare District. An electric barbeque, shelter, toilets, children's play equipment and lawns make it a popular amenity for residents and visitors.

2. UNITING CHURCH (SH)

The original Wesleyan Chapel, built in 1857, is now operated as Roscrow Bed & Breakfast. The Methodist (now Uniting) Church beside it was opened in 1867, the large lecture hall & Sunday School rooms in 1888.

3. ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH (LH)

This was the first substantial building in the Clare Village and was opened in 1849. It was the third Catholic church in the colony and the building is now used as part of St Joseph's School. The church with the high gleaming dome was completed in 1883.

4. PILLAR BOX 1886

Of increasing rarity, this is one of two surviving cast iron pillar boxes of the Victorian era in Clare. The other, on the Main North Road (No. 28), is on the Local Heritage list.

5. NATIONAL TRUST MUSEUM (SH)

Built in 1850 as a police station, barracks and courthouse, it was later a casualty hospital after being altered in 1878. It continued in this role until the present hospital opened in 1924. This building was saved from demolition and opened as a National Trust Museum in 1970.

6. CLARE GENERAL CEMETERY

A forty minute return walk from the National Trust Museum, this cemetery was opened by the Council in 1872, to address health issues associated with the three church graveyards in the township. The earliest graves are the first on your left.

7. BLEAK HOUSE (SH)

Named after the Charles Dickens' novel, the home was built in 1872 by W.L.Beare, manager of Bungaree Station. It is a private home and not open to the public.

7a. CHAFF MILL

Erected in about 1860, the Chaff Mill was originally part of EB Gleeson's property, Inchiquin. The original loft and well, supplied water to nearby homes,

The building was narrowly saved from demolition in 1987, and now houses two restaurants.

8. KNAPPSTEIN WINERY (SH)

This distinctive building began life in August 1878 as Clare Enterprise Brewery, making Racecourse Beer as well as lemonade and soda water. Major extensions and new equipment came in 1913, but beer brewing ceased here in 1916 following changes to the liquor laws. In 1917 aerated water and cordial production was continued under the name of Clare Mineral Waters Company. In 1976 it became the home of Knappstein Wines. Brewing of beer recommenced in 2007.

9. MAYNARD PARK (formerly Pioneer Park) (LH)

This area was originally called The Twins after two large twin gums on the site. Blacksmith John Maynard used a seat cut in a large gum tree to serve meals to shearers in the 1840's, and this tree, in the park, is on the Local Heritage list. The tree and park were presented to Clare Corporation in 1941 by Mrs. Diana Christison.

10. WWI MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Located near the bowling green, this plaque commemorates the 26 former scholars of Clare schools who fell in the Great War 1914-1918.

11. ST BARNABAS CHURCH (SH)

St Barnabas' Church of England was built in 1851. A cemetery in the churchyard has graves dating back to the 1850's. Of particular interest is the family crypt of EB Gleeson, first mayor of Clare.

12. BILLYGOAT HILL

The lookout received its name after a journalist from Adelaide was misled into believing that 'Billygoat Hill' was its correct name. An excellent view of Clare township and surrounds is offered from this vantage point, which is reached by a steep and difficult climb from Wright Place.

12a. HOPE COTTAGE (SH)
Built circa 1850's & one of the earliest surviving dwellings in Clare. It was home to the McKinnons, then the Baxter family from 1923 until recently and their 8 children were raised there. The original wooden shingles are beneath the iron.

13. MILL STREET SCHOOL (LH)
Clare's first public school, built in 1872, cost £605/16/5, £200 of which came from a government grant. It was reported that the opening of the School reduced the number of children roaming the streets and making mischief. The building is now a private residence and is not open to the public.

14. MILL STREET COTTAGE (SH)
This 2-storey building was erected for Mr. Richards, a wheelwright, in 1872, using stone from the nearby quarry. It now houses commercial offices.

15. INSTITUTE (SH)
A fine example of Italianate architecture, the former Institute building was constructed in 1872 and now houses the Clare Public Library. Local philanthropist Dr JWD Bain was instrumental in its construction and operation.

16. COURTHOUSE (LH)
The courthouse was occupied in 1880 and is still used today. In the 1920's a new police sergeant's house and cells were built next door. A purpose-built police station on Main North Road opened in 1979.

17. NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK (LH)
A well-proportioned example of banking architecture of the period, this bank was built in 1881.

18. ANZ BANK (SH)
This fine building was erected in 1877 for the English, Scottish and Australian Chartered Bank. In 1985 the building was refurbished in keeping with its historic character.

19. CLARE TOWN HALL
Opened in April 1926, there are two interesting historic plaques on the front. The Clare Regional History Collection is housed upstairs, and is open to the public on Thursdays.

20. OLD TOWN HALL (SH)
Distinguished by the blank clock apertures in the tower, the building was erected in 1866 by a private company and sold to the Clare Corporation in 1875. The District Council of Clare was formed in 1853, the first council in the north of the state. Most of the township became the Corporation of Clare in 1868, with Mr. EB "Paddy" Gleeson as Mayor.

21. FORMER AMP BUILDING (SH)
This ornately carved stone building was erected in 1917 for the AMP Society. It was for many years the regional headquarters for ETSA. It now houses Employment Directions and one of the few elevators in Clare.

22. SALVATION ARMY CITADEL
The Salvation Army came to the Mid-North in 1884 and had very controversial beginnings. The officers suffered harassment at the hands of the local population. The building was sold privately in 1996. It served as a restaurant for a number of years and is now a hairdressing salon.

23. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY
The Mid-North Electric Supply Company was established in 1924 to transmit power over a wide area, including Eudunda, Auburn, Saddleworth, Riverton, Marrabel, Mintaro, Eudunda and Anlaby. It closed in 1947 when power supply was taken over by ETSA.

24. FORMER CLAREVALE WINERY
Originally the coaching stables of Hill & Co. In 1930 Clarevale Co-operative Winery converted the buildings to wine cellars, and operated until sold in 1981. In the 1990s, it was briefly a restaurant. Following extensive restoration, it now houses commercial offices.

25. FORMER RAILWAY STATION AREA
The Riverton to Clare section of railway was officially opened in 1918, and the Clare to Spalding section in 1922. Passenger services ceased in 1954, with freight continuing until 1983 when the Ash Wednesday bushfires seriously damaged the track. This former railway corridor is now the popular Riesling Trail, used by tourists, walkers and cyclists.

26. MR. MICK (SH)

The oldest of these buildings housed the short-lived Clare Fruit Preserving Works. In 1894, the Stanley Wine Company began operations on this site. One of its founders, Mr. JH Knappstein, took Stanley Wine Co. wines to London in 1903. Now Mr. Mick cellar door sales and restaurant.

27. WAR MEMORIALS (SH)

The First World War Memorial arch is complemented by the 9th Light Horse Memorial, containing a captured Turkish Krupp field gun. Further to the south are the memorial gates which honour service in World War II. A smaller memorial recognizes service in Korea, Vietnam and all recent conflicts fought by local people.

28. EDUCATION OFFICE

After the Mill Street School became too small to cope with increasing enrolments, a new site and building were sought. This building opened as Clare Public School on 8 August 1879, with John Harry as headmaster. By 1900 the average enrolment was 162. A new high school was erected at a site on the Blyth Road in 1971, enabling the primary school to move one block south into the former high school premises, which is its present site.

29. DRILL HALL

The Drill Hall was built in 1913 and was stable–oriented to cater for the Mounted Rifles. It was home for sub-units of the 7th Mounted Rifles, the 27th Battalion Royal SA Scottish Regiment and SA's oldest military unit, the 10th Battalion Royal SA Regiment (formerly the Adelaide Rifles).

30. BAIN ROTUNDA (SH)

This fine rotunda was erected in 1904 in memory of Dr JWD Bain, a public-minded citizen who did much for Clare. He sponsored several public facilities such as the Clare Baths, skating rink, butter factory and a water cart for the Main Street.

(SH) – State Heritage Listed
(LH) – Local Heritage Listed

The Clare Historic Walk

1 *Lions Park*
2 *Uniting Church*
3 *St Michael's Church*
4 *Pillar Box*
5 *National Trust Museum*
6 *Clare General Cemetery*
7 *Bleak House*
7a *Chaff Mill*
8 *Knappstein Winery*
9 *Maynard Park*
10 *WWI Memorial Plaque*
11 *St Barnabas Church*
12 *Billygoat Hill*
12a *Hope Cottage*
13 *Mill Street School*
14 *Mill Street Cottage*
15 *Institute*
16 *Court House*
17 *National Aust Bank*
18 *ANZ Bank*
19 *Clare Town Hall*
20 *Old Town Hall*
21 *Former AMP Building*
22 *Old Salvation Army Citadel*
23 *Electric Supply Co*
24 *Clarevale Winery*
25 *Former Railway Station area*
26 *Mr. Mick*
27 *War Memorials*
28 *District Education/TAFE*
29 *Army Drill Hall*
30 *Bain Rotunda*
(T) *Toilets*