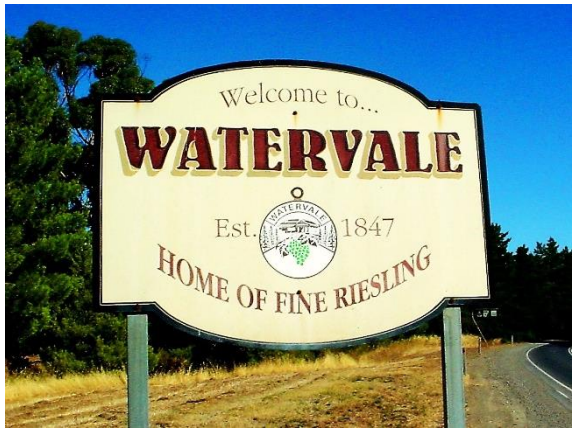
Visit Historic …



The village amongst the vines

Est. 1847

We believe Watervale was settled in the early 1840's. Squatters had followed the noted young explorer John Ainsworth Horrocks who in 1839 had settled Penwortham, 3 miles north, the first European settlement north of Gawler.

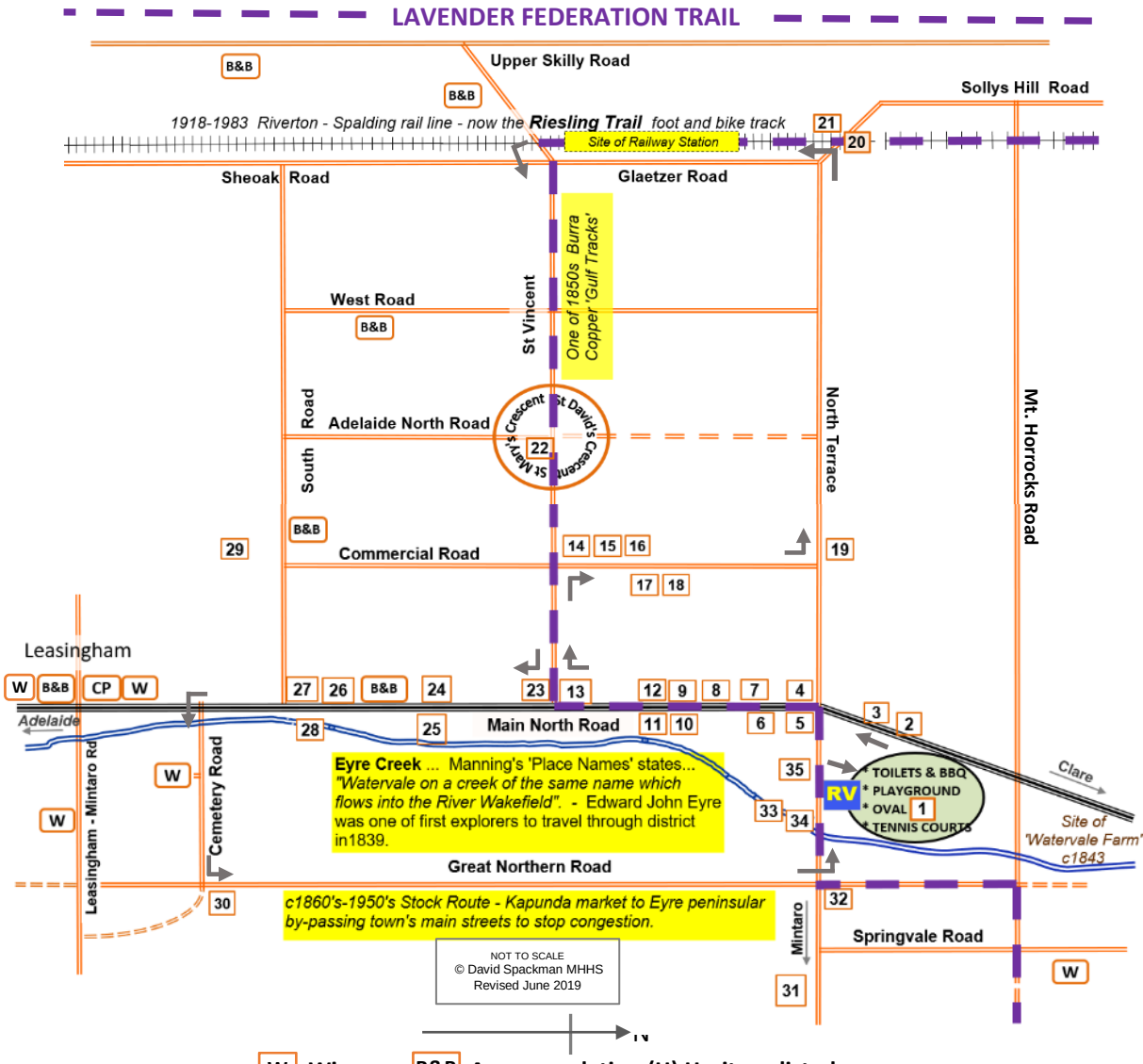
In 1845 the district grew with the discovery of copper at Burra as one of the copper 'Gulf Roads' passed through Watervale.

In 1847 David Davies was granted Sections 145-146 and laid out his town.
Watervale was then a private township, the squatters were required to negotiate purchase of their selection or pay rent!

Welcome to Historic Watervale

Visit some of our many attractions and taste the History

Historic Sites Circuit



1. **CIRCUIT START-END** **Watervale Soldiers Memorial Park** *dedicated to the memory of the fallen WW1 soldiers, opened* ***1919****. Pavilion built* ***1929****, over the years home of basketball, cricket, football, hockey, softball and tennis. Designated future RV site.*
2. **St Mary's Church of England** *built* ***1907*** *of local stone and material salvaged from Leasingham Chapel.*
3. **Creamery** *burnt down,* ***1915*** *rebuilt as an* **Institute,** ***1921*** **War Memorial Obelisk** *erected.*
4. **Stanley Arms Hotel** *first licensed* ***1847,*** **first telegraph station** ***1866*** *operated in one of its rooms.* ***1866*** *renamed* **Watervale Hotel,** ***1912*** *burnt down and rebuilt.* ***1868*** *a lock-up built.*
5. **Flour Mill** *and house* ***1868-1923****, chimney remained until* ***1928.***
6. **Coachbuilder** *opened late* ***1860s****, now site of Telstra exchange.*
7. **Blacksmith Shop** *opened late* ***1850s*** *by Peter Shearer, inventor of farm implements.*
8. **Stone Stables** *with hay-loft* ***c1863****, now a private residence.*
9. **Mounting Steps (H)** *both sides of road - aids for boarding coaches and mounting horses.*
10. **Telegraph Station** ***c1882,*** **Post Office** *opened* ***1885-1967****, now a private residence.*
11. **Grain & General Store** ***c1851*** *part demolished, now part of a private residence.*
12. **General Store** ***c1851*** *now General Store and Post Office.*
13. **Saddler Shop** ***c1872*** *later a* **Bicycle, Barber's Shop** ***c1890****, now a private residence.*
14. **Methodist Manse** ***c1869*** *now B&B.*
15. **Methodist Church** ***c1866*** *now the Uniting Church.*
16. ***Bible Christian Chapel*** ***c1854*** *Joseph Stear Carlyon Cole first used it as a day school before building Stanley Grammar School, now Uniting Church hall.*
17. **Village School** *funds raised* ***1858****, built* ***1860****, opened* ***1861****.*
18. **Stanley Grammar School (H)** ***1857-1904,*** *highly respected J S Carlyon Cole taught some of the State's high achievers. Now a B&B*
19. **Watervale Cellars** ***c1849****, originally 2 rooms and cellar, now Crabtree Winery.*
20. **Riverton-Spalding railway line** ***1918-1983****, now the* ***Riesling Trail*** *foot and bike track. Now Lavender Federation Trail follows it north*
21. **Horse stable/blacksmith shop** ***1880s*** *site.*
22. **Village Well & Pump** ***c1886*** *sunk and established in Village Common time of drought.*
23. **Library** ***c1860s*** *later a* **Delicatessen,** *now private residence.*
24. **Foresters Hall (H) 1872-1966 Court of Bushman's Home Ancient Order of Foresters,** now Private Business.
25. **Prince of Wales Hotel** ***c1849****, burnt down, rebuilt* ***1915*** *as a* **Mothers Nursing Home** ***1916 - 1927****, now a private residence.*
26. **1800s Blacksmith Shop** *burnt down, new garage built on southern side* ***1922.***
27. **Brewery** ***c1850*** *was short lived strong brew exploded and brewery burnt down!*
28. **Squatters Cottage & Milking Shed (H)** ***c1847,*** *now private resentence.*
29. **Rosenberg Cellars & Still (H)** ***c1870****, now private residence.*
30. **Watervale Cemetery** ***1890*** *land donated by Francis Treloar and first to be buried there.*
31. **Watervale Rifle** **c1881 & Golf Club c1921** on J Castine's land 3-4 km east of town - now closed.
32. **Quelltaler Winery (H)** *Francis Treloar first planted vines* ***1854*** *- selling flagons of wine for 1-2 shillings a flagon.* ***2018*** *estate closed for renovations.*
33. **Eyre Creek,** recorded *as' Watervale Creek, in 'Place Names'.*
34. **'The Killing Tree'** *an old Red Gum's low limb once used to butcher and hang dressed stock.*
35. **Butcher's Shop** ***c1850-1976*** *- now private residence.*