

Tara Yesteryears By Shanks Pony



The saying “shanks pony” originated in Scotland in the 18th century. The word ‘shanks’ refers to the lower part of the leg, or shin, while ‘pony’ refers to the mode of transport of the era. Essentially ‘by shanks pony’ means to walk.

1. Lagoon and Walking Trail

The social gathering site of pioneers in the early 1900s and for the community and visitors today. Walk the path and learn some of the lagoon’s stories from the interpretive signs.

2. Scout Log Cabin

This was built by volunteers and Scouts in 1957. This cabin is a replica of the first Scout cabin built in the United Kingdom.

3. Catholic Church

Opened on September 3, 1939; the day World War II was declared.

4. Tara & District Historical Society

Located at this site are the Pioneer Memorial Gateway, Brauer Hut, Tara’s original school, railway station and wagons. For private tours, contact the society on 4665 3325.

5. Lifeline Building

This building was constructed in 1942 as the Blue Moon Picture Theatre and has since been used for many purposes including as a skating rink. Today it is the Lifeline building.

6. Tara Shire Council

The first of the offices on the existing site were built in the 1920s. Planning for this municipal building took place in 1955 with major renovations made in 2003.

7. Clock & Cenotaph

The town clock was erected in 1984 in recognition of Bertie Barden OBE’s years of service (1946-1952/1955-1982) as Councillor and Chairman of the former Tara Shire Council. The Cenotaph was built in 1999 in remembrance of all those who served and lost their lives in all conflicts.

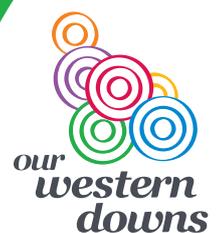
8. Apex Amenities (Public Conveniences)

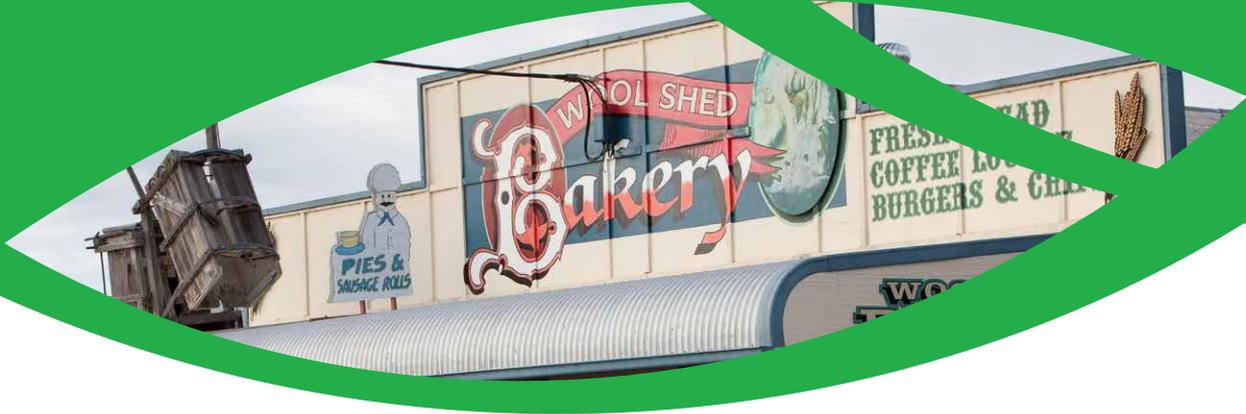
“Apex House”, as it was originally known, was the first project of the Apex Club in 1958. Tara was the smallest town in Australia at that time to actively support an Apex Club.

9. Tara Memorial Swimming Pool

Construction of the Olympic sized swimming pool started in 1962 with the assistance of volunteers.

“... learn some of the lagoon’s stories from the interpretive signs.”





“The Commercial was built in 1912. Today it is home to some of Hugh Sawrey’s paintings.”

10. QCWA Building

Built in 1950 as a rest room, this building was originally known as “Bilton House”. Mr Bilton was the first contributor to the building fund in 1945. Under the front steps is the location of a bore sunk in 1917/18 for the purpose of supplying water for the town.

11. Tara Medical Centre

Built in 1941 as the bank of New South Wales. In recent years the bank has been operating as a Medical Centre with the ‘vault’ still in use today as an X-ray room.

12. Commercial Hotel

When the railway extended to Tara, businesses such as The Commercial were bound to follow. The Commercial was built in two months in 1912. Today it is home to some of Hugh Sawrey’s paintings.

13. Woolshed Bakery

Built in 1947, this building was originally known as the “Terry Charles” building. After remodelling, it opened as the “Woolshed Bakery”.

14. Grain Silos

The steel silos were built in 1975 and the cement silos in 1979. They have a storage capacity of 12,000 tons.

15. Neighbourhood Centre

The building was originally the maternity ward at the old hospital grounds where Tarcoola is today. This building was moved in 1965 to the current hospital grounds, then in 2002 moved again to be used by the Neighbourhood Centre.

“The first land sale held in Tara resulted in a corner allotment selling for £33...”

16. Henry Buildings

The first land sale held in Tara resulted in this corner allotment selling for £33, an extraordinary amount for that period in time. A Mr Henry Arthur, originally from Victoria, built Tara’s first brick building on this site. Known as the Henry Buildings, it comprised a general store, bank and drapery, and opened for business in 1938. Mr Henry also built a store at The Gums in 1932, which he operated for fifteen years.

17. Tara Cemetery

Amongst the oldest of the marked gravesites is one that belongs to Mr Frank Fry; the first chairman of the former Tara Shire Council, who passed away in 1914 at the age of 57.



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