

# HISTORY

Explore the rich history of this region, which has been home to the Ngarrindjeri people for thousands of years. Their vibrant culture has flourished along the banks of the mighty Murray River, and their connection to the land remains strong to this day.

In the early 1800s, Captain Charles Sturt became the first European explorer to navigate the river by boat, paving the way for future growth in the area. By the late 1880s, farmers had settled in the region, taking advantage of the fertile land alongside the river and establishing a township.

Between 1909 and 1918, the South Australian Government undertook a significant project to reclaim the wetlands in the area. They constructed a levee bank, drained the land, and built a pumping station and irrigation channels.

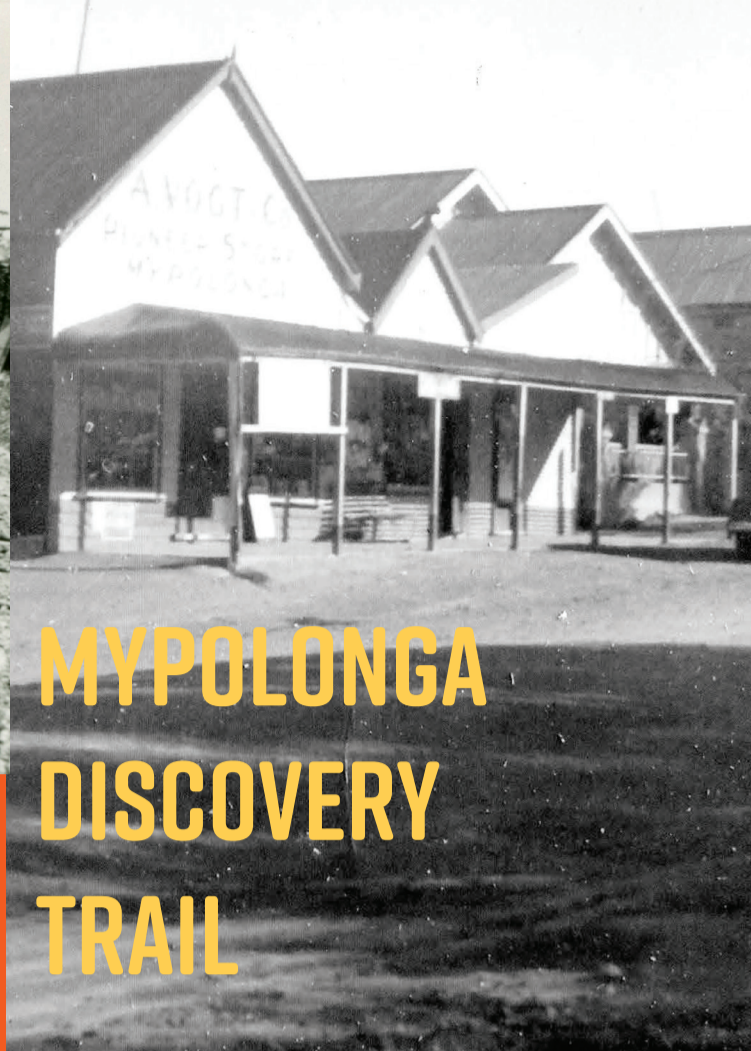
In 1914, the newly created farming blocks were allocated for dairy farming and fruit growing, and the families who worked on them became known as "blockers." This marked the beginning of a new era of agriculture in the region, which continues to thrive to this day.

Follow the Discovery Trail signs to explore for the best experience.

Discovery Trail signage



Drying Apricots, 1930. SLSA D4952



## MYPOLONGA DISCOVERY TRAIL

DISCOVER THE CULTURE AND HERITAGE OF MYPOLONGA

**MYPOLONGA DISCOVERY TRAIL**

**The general store and post office: the commercial centre**

When Mypolonga was established, poor roads made it hard for the early farming families to get supplies. Establishing a general store to provide almost everything, from groceries to ironmongery, was very important.

This store was built in 1920, replacing an earlier one located at what is now Irene Hughes Park. Goods arrived by boat, and the store owners delivered them to customers by horse and cart, and later by truck.

Telegraph was connected to Mypolonga in 1916, enabling locals to make telephone calls. Before that, residents received messages by mail or in telegrams delivered on horse-back from Murray Bridge.

This building has also been the town's post office since 1920, apart from a thirty-year period in 1925 when the post office was in the original butcher's shop, later door. The butcher's shop was built in 1919 and is now a private residence.

### Discover more:

Beyond its own attractions, Mypolonga and the surrounding areas offer a wide range of activities and destinations to explore. Discover the region's natural beauty by visiting conservation parks and wetlands, or get up close with majestic wildlife at Monarto Safari Park.

To cool down take a refreshing dip in the Murray Bridge Swimming and Splash Park. There are also plenty of opportunities for adventure on land, with walking and cycling trails offering stunning views of the area's scenic landscapes.

For detailed maps, brochures and bookings visit the:

**Murray Bridge**

**Visitor Information Centre**

3 South Terrace, Murray Bridge SA 5235

T. 1800 442 784

W. [murraybridge.sa.gov.au/vic](http://murraybridge.sa.gov.au/vic)

Get to know Murray Bridge better:

W. [makeityours.com.au](http://makeityours.com.au)



## WELCOME TO MYPOLONGA

The Mypolonga Discovery Trail takes you on a leisurely 20-minute stroll around the Mypolonga township to learn about its history and community. There are views of the river flats and cliffs on the way, and the opportunity to stop for a picnic in the park.

### NGARRINDJERI WELCOME

Ngarni nglelun alyenik ruwi elun

Ngarrindjeri ruwi.

We know this land here is Ngarrindjeri Land.

Yunti-angan thuldun, ngopun ruw-angk

Ngarrindjeri meli-ndjeri.

Together we meet and walk on land belonging to the Ngarrindjeri people.

Ngarrindjeri meli watjun mulumi nglelurumi ruw-ald.

The Ngarrindjeri people have sacred knowledge of the land.

Kanawi nglelurumi elun piltenggi.

Their knowledge is strong

Kitji weldai tumbelun-ari, kaldau.

It is still living, now and forever.



Ngarrindjeri RUWI

# THE DISCOVERY TRAIL WALK

THIS WALK ENABLES YOU TO DISCOVER SOME OF MYPOLONGA'S FASCINATING HISTORY. USE THIS BROCHURE TO GUIDE YOU AROUND THE ROUTE. AT EACH STOP, YOU WILL FIND AN INTERPRETIVE SIGN WHERE YOU CAN LEARN MORE.

Start your walk outside the Mypolonga Institute on Green Street. There is free parking and toilets alongside the Institute building.

## 1. MYPOLONGA INSTITUTE

When Mypolonga was established in 1914, the first community events were held in private homes. The Mypolonga Institute was built in 1929 and is the centre of the town's social and cultural activities. The building has hosted many community events and celebrations, concerts, sports clubs, dances, church services, a library and cinema. The Institute is still used by the local community for a diverse range of events.

With the institute in front of you, turn left and walk to the end of Green Street until you reach the second sign.

Fruit Pickers, 1930. SLSA D4952



## 2. UNITING CHURCH, BAKE HOUSE, AND ANGLICAN CHURCH

You can see three buildings at this stop: the Mypolonga Uniting Church, constructed in 1922; St Etheldreda's Anglican Church on the corner, built in 1933; and the former bake house in between, which operated from 1946 to 1964 and is now a private residence.

Early church services in Mypolonga were held in the homes of the first farming families, at the school, and in the Institute. The community soon started raising funds to build churches. The oldest building is the Mypolonga Methodist Church.

The Anglican Church is opposite, to the right. It was named St Etheldreda after the cathedral in Ely in England, which is also built alongside a swamp.

Walk down the hill. Cross over Marten Street and continue until you come to the park on your right-hand side.

Carting Hay, 1930. SLSA D4952



## 3. IRENE HUGHES PARK

This corner of the town was once a busy place, with a pioneer store, a church, and a cannery. The first Mypolonga Pioneer Store and Post Office were established here by Mr Wiadrowski in 1914. Goods and mail came up the river on paddle steamers, and were taken to the store by horse and cart. You can also see one of the old pumps that used to pump drainage water from the blocks, relocated from its original site nearer the river.

This park is named after Irene Hughes, who collected and recorded the town's history. If you have time, take a detour here to the river. Walk straight ahead along the continuation of Green Street (Hill Road) for 650 meters until you reach the river. This is the site of the town landing where milk cans from local dairy farms were collected by milk boats and taken to factories in Murray Bridge. You can connect here to the Murray Coorong Trail.

To continue on the Discovery Trail, with the park behind you, turn left into Hannaford Terrace and walk two blocks until you reach Williams Street. Turn left and walk up Williams Street to the general store.

Steam navy & locomotive used for construction work, 1915. PRG-1258-59-210



## 4. GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE

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Cross over the road to learn about Mypolonga School.



## 5. MYPOLONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The families who took up the first blocks in Mypolonga in 1914 had large families with many young children, so a school was desperately needed. The first school opened in 1916 and accommodated 60 children. It was a galvanized iron building with a single classroom which was extremely hot in summer. The original galvanized iron building still stands.

From the school, continue up Williams Street and turn left at the intersection onto Marten Street. At the intersection, look back down the street and compare the view with the photograph below, from 1925. Continue down Marten Street until you reach the next intersection. Turn right to end up back on Green Street. Continue up Green Street until you reach the Institute

Mypolonga School during flood, 1956. Mypolonga Primary School



## 6. WOODLANE RESERVE

Woodlane Reserve is the final stop on the Mypolonga Discovery Trail. From the institute car park turn right onto Green Street and continue until you reach the intersection at the end of the Green Street. Turn left onto Hannaford Street and continue along the street for approximately 6.5km until you reach Woodland Reserve. See map below.

Woodlane Reserve is a beautiful place to visit, perched right on the Murray River's edge in our friendly little South Australian community of Mypolonga. The reserve is a great spot for a picnic and features a playground, lawned areas, picnic shelters, a boat ramp and public toilets.

