

The following brochures can be obtained from the Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre:

- (1) Renmark Tourist Drive
- (2) Paringa Tourist Drive
- (3) History Trail of Renmark Cemetery
- (4) Renmark Rose Drive/Walk

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm

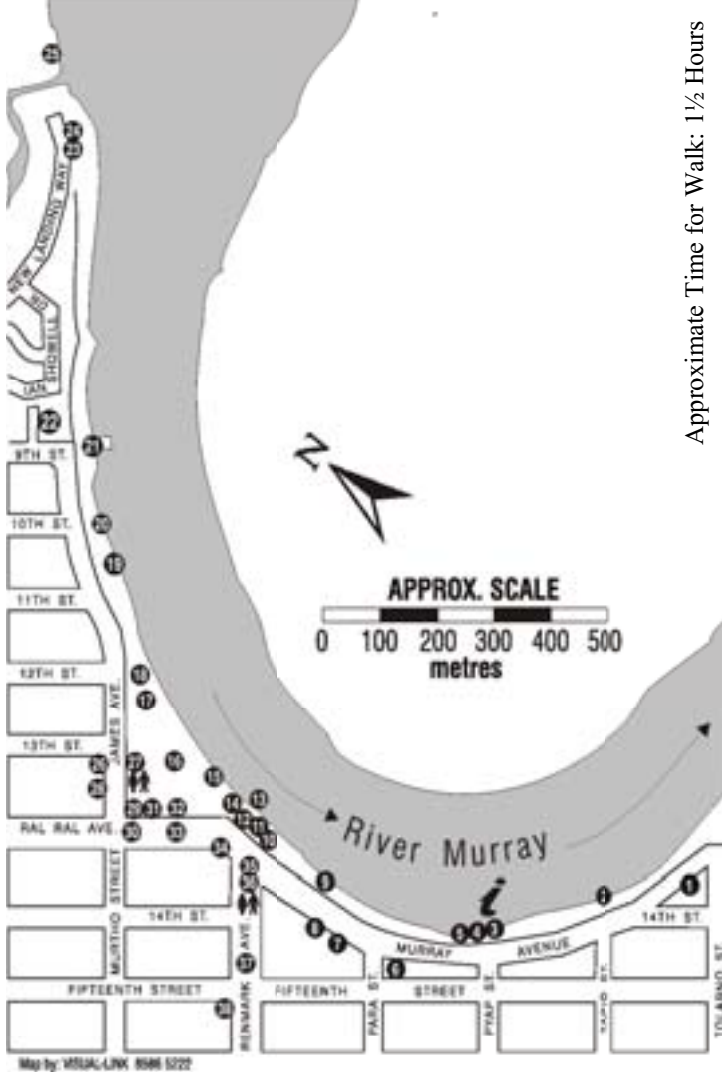
Sunday & P. Hols 10am - 4pm

Closed Christmas Day & Good Friday



Renmark Town Heritage Walk

Approximate Time for Walk: 1½ Hours



Prepared by:
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Miriam McLean on behalf of the
Renmark Paringa Council.

Maps & Riverside Signage by:
Visual-Link

For tourist information contact:
Renmark Paringa
Visitor Information Centre

84 Murray Avenue,
REMARK SA 5341

Phone: 1300 661 704

www.visitrenmark.com



1. **F. A. Sonnemann's Factory** was established in 1921 making cool drinks and sweets and later diversifying into cold storage for rabbits and fish. Changing again to handling tyre retreads and as agents for potatoes and pickaxe bottles. Before closing down in 2003, Sonnemann's were a major recycling depot for most drink containers.
2. **Red Gums, Reeds & Willows** are visible in this stretch of waterfront. Reeds act as a filtering system to purify water. Red Gums can live up to 1,000 years and their timber was valuable in days past for boat building, firewood and railway sleepers. Willows were an introduced species planted originally to prevent erosion of the riverbanks.
3. **Argo Barge** was built at Mannum in 1915 to be a permanent floating pumping station. It was employed digging irrigation channels and used during building of the locks. The complete restoration was the result of countless volunteer hours put in by the Argo Restoration Committee.
4. **River Flows & Environment** before the advent of locks and weirs there was no control over river levels, which were inconsistent, either low or too high, causing problems for irrigators and paddle steamers.
5. **Paddle Steamer Industry** built in 1911 by the State Government as a working boat to keep the navigation channel clear of snagged trees. Also used for dredging and during lock construction.
6. **Renmark Community Hotel** originally the site of Meissner's Temperance Hotel, which was purchased in 1897 and today operates as a Community Hotel with profits returned to the community through grants to schools, charities and sports. It was the first Community Hotel in the British Empire.



7. **The Ozone Theatre** was built in 1925 on the site of a wood and iron theatre (formally known as the New Arcadia Theatre), which burnt down.

8. **Renmark Irrigation Trust (R.I.T.)** was erected in 1888 from local Spring Cart Gully Stone by the Chaffey Brothers as their office, until their collapse in 1893 when the Renmark irrigators formed the Irrigation Trust. The R.I.T. is home to an original Chaffey Bros. pump manufactured by Tangyes in Birmingham, UK .
9. **Renmark Settlers Club** was erected in 1908 as a 'Gentleman's Club'. The club had its own bowling greens adjacent, which were removed in 1997 and the area opened to the public.
10. **The Renmark Fruit Growers Cooperative Packing Shed** stood on this site until 1937 when it moved to another site. A spur line put down in 1926 ran from the railway station to the packing shed. This facilitated more efficient transport by rail to Adelaide at a time when river traffic was in decline. The premises were re-modelled to service growers' needs and traded under the Mitre 10 banner until the shop was demolished in 1994.



11. **The Chinese Lion Statue** was a gift from sister city Shi Shi in 2000.
12. **Harry Clark Fountain** was designed by Peter Everingham and constructed by the Corporation of Renmark with a generous donation from a local businessman (Clark's Supermarket Chain) in 1977.
13. **Town Wharf** once serviced the busy paddle steamer trade. The original timber planking was replaced with concrete in 1979.



14. **Sturt Memorial** has plaques commemorating Captain Sturt's first voyage down the Murray River in 1830 and his inland exploratory journey of 1844.
15. **Renmark Rowing Club** was formed in 1919 and has an impressive history of triumphs with many older members taking honours in 'Masters' sporting regattas today.
16. **Jarrett Memorial Gardens** named in honour of Mr. E. E. Jarrett, Renmark's Town Clerk of 40 years, were formerly the show grounds and site of sport and entertainment. The Bandstand was erected by fundraising in 1931 and a popular venue for Sunday night concerts.



17. **David Ruston Sculpture** David Ruston has committed his life to the floricultural world. In 1968, he started the David Ruston Rose Garden. He has received many prestigious awards culminating in being elected President Emeritus of the World Federation of Rose Societies in 2009. This public art work to honour David, 'A Life in Flowers' by Janette Moore and John Draper was unveiled on 16/10/2010.
18. **St Augustine's Church** was constructed in 1906 from Spring Cart Gully stone. The Anglican community had formerly been served by the P.S. Etona and an iron hall. The rectory adjacent was built in 1914 with extensions made in 1926. The stone Parish Hall served as an Anglican school from 1920-1949 and then as a preschool until 1961.
19. **Birds you may see;** this section of riverfront is popular with the many varieties of parrots and water birds.
20. **Domestic Water Supply** is stored in this tower. There is also another water storage tower shaped like a wine glass in the Renmark township.
21. **Irrigation made possible** the first pumping plant was at the mouth of Ral Ral Creek until moved to this site in the early 1900's. The plant was steam powered fuelled by wood burning boilers which consumed enormous amounts of timber.

(Optional 'Jane Eliza Walk', if not continuing, turn and walk back along James Avenue to No. 26)

22. **The Gregory Property** now known as Apricot Grove is the site of the home and fruit property of Byron Gregory who was a member of the Chaffey survey party which surveyed town and settlement.
23. **'P.S. Jane Eliza' Boiler** is the original boiler of the 'P.S. Beechworth' which burnt and was re-built and renamed the 'Jane Eliza'. In 1878, the boiler was removed and lay unused at the Goolwa Foundry until this business was bought by the Chaffey Brothers. They put the boiler to use as part of the No. 1 Pumping Station Plant.
24. **Jane Eliza River Estate** is a waterfront housing development built around man-made lagoons. It was launched in 1988 by the Showell family.
25. **Birthplace of an Industry;** The Liba-Liba Houseboat moorings are the birthplace of holiday houseboats - an innovative idea pioneered by Ian Showell in 1961 and now a major industry in three states.
26. ***Congregational Church** - this site was occupied by a wood and iron church until 1933 when a bequest from Murtho farmer James Wilkinson made possible this stone church, which today is a private home.
27. **Renmark Paringa Public Library** is on the site of the first Municipal Power Station built in 1916. This iron building was replaced with a concrete structure in the early 1940's and this in turn was re-modelled in 1984 to serve as the present library. At the rear of the then power station was the Barber Memorial Pool opened in 1933 and in use until a new pool was built in 1975.
28. **Site of R.A.O.B. Lodge** opposite the library there is a stone cairn denoting the site that was once occupied by the R.A.O.B. Lodge. The Renmark Lodge was formed in 1920 and their hall erected in 1929. This was purchased by The Murray Pioneer for expansion of their plant and the hall demolished in 2005.
29. **The Renmark Soldiers Memorial Hall** was officially opened in 1923 with upstairs rooms used by returned servicemen and the rooms downstairs utilized as council offices and the town library. This building was built onto the original **Institute** built of stone in 1908 and used for all indoor entertainment until the Chaffey Theatre was built in the early 1980's. Please enter through double glass doors to inspect the **Roll of Honour & Mural**.

(Key can be obtained next door from the Grapevine Book & Gift Shop during business hours.)



30. **Cross of Sacrifice** opposite the Soldiers Memorial Hall was erected in 1937 as part of the town's Jubilee Celebrations.



31. Proceeding along Ral Ral Avenue on the left hand side is the present **Police Station** built in 1962, which replaced a stone courtroom and police station erected in 1908.
32. A lane separates the Police Station from the **Post Office**, which was erected in 1968. This building replaced an earlier stone one erected in 1892 with extensions made in the 1920's.



33. Opposite the Post Office in the centre of the median garden area is the **Chaffey Memorial** erected in honour of William Chaffey one of the town's founding fathers who died in 1926 in Mildura.

34. At the end of the median garden strip the first fire station was erected in 1925 until demolished in 1961. On the opposite side of the street is one of only three **pepper trees** remaining that were planted in the early 1890's and lined both sides of Murray Avenue and one side of Ral Ral Avenue. Two trees remain in the car park of the Renmark Club.



35. Turning right on to Renmark Avenue the **Town Clock** is prominent on the centre garden median strip. This clock was a gift from The Murray Pioneer to the town to mark it's Centenary celebrations 1887-1987.
36. Behind the clock is a garden bed with tablet honouring the efforts of the **town Council's first Gardener** Mr. W. Legge-Willis who died in 1924.
37. This entire area of median garden showcases the roses that have made Renmark's Rose Festival famous. Proceeding along the lawns past the tourist bus bay is the **wine press** brought to Renmark from Lilydale Victoria in 1924 by Mr. W. H. Kidd. The press is an early capstan type and was presented by the Kidd family in 1963.



38. Coming to the end of the lawn area on the right is the **Uniting Church** formerly the Renmark Methodist Church, which was opened in 1931. The memorial lead-light windows in the porch area are from the former Congregational Church in James Avenue opposite the Library, which is now a private home.