

# River Walk



to Old Wyening Road  
2.5 mins / 155 m

## 1 Old Geraldton Road

This south-north road was originally the main route from Perth to Geraldton.

The road ran past the front gates of the monastery complex and formed one of the principal gathering areas for the developing town. On the southern stretch out of town there were three timber bridges across the Moore river which are now in ruins. At the northern end of town the courthouse was deliberately placed at the head of the road, at the end of the vista.

The main highway, now New Norcia Road, was moved away from the monastery to its present position in the 1950s when vehicle traffic increased and a new bridge was built across the river.

## The Rule of St. Benedict

"Do not be drowsed immediately by food and rest easy. From the road that leads to salvation, it is hard to be wiser or the wiser. But as we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall rise on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love."

Prologue: 48-49

## Yued Language

*baawadac*

outside, in the open

A new building used on the Old Geraldton Road in the early 1950s. Made by the light & St. Benedict's College with the floor laid by Perth City.

View of New Norcia in the 1950s. The Old Benedictine Road is longer than the monastery. The road and ground level between Perth and New Norcia is the same as the Old Geraldton Road. The floor was laid by Perth City.



## An historical, spiritual and Indigenous experience.

Learning is a cornerstone to life in New Norcia and the self-guided River Walk is your opportunity to explore the rich and fascinating history of this unique community.

The distinctive interpretive trail signs along the walk guide you on a journey through New Norcia's rich heritage, highlighting points of interest and providing insight to life in the community over the past 170 years.

New Norcia would never have come about, or continued, were it not for the spirit of St. Benedict and his Rule. Each sign has an excerpt from the Rule of St. Benedict providing spiritual context to the location and an opportunity to reflect.

Salvado had a deep interest and respect for Aboriginal people which inspired him to record the Noongar language, culture and customs. As you follow the River Walk you can learn a little of the local Yued language.

# New Norcia River Walk

The River Walk is a leisurely trail through bush to the Moore River and beyond, an experience that changes with the seasons – the River Walk is an ideal way to relax, unwind and enjoy the fresh country air.

The main trail is approximately 1.5km long, with optional sidewalks and is suitable for all ages. Allow up to an hour and ensure you take water with you. The walk may not be suitable for people with limited mobility.

There is a path across the river that will not be safe when the water level is high; the Wet Season Walk is an alternative route following the river bank, past the monastery grounds and on to the Farm Road Bridge.

At times you will need to cross roads, so look out for vehicles, adhere to warning signs, and close all gates behind you. As the trail passes through high fire-risk areas – please refrain from smoking.

For more information please contact:

New Norcia Visitor Centre

T (08) 9654 8056 or

E [museum@newnorcia.wa.edu.au](mailto:museum@newnorcia.wa.edu.au)



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[www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au)



# New Norcia River Walk

*A self-guided walk exploring the historical, spiritual and Indigenous heritage of New Norcia.*





**1 Old Geraldton Road**  
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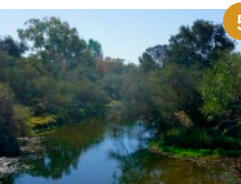
**2 Old Road to Wyening**  
The River Walk follows the track from the Convent to the Moore River. This was once the road from New Norcia to Wyening, 40kms to the east, where the Benedictines had an outstation and winery.



**3 Piggery and Pig-keeper's Cottage**  
On the river bank to the south is the old pig-keeper's cottage and beyond it, the ruins of the piggery. The cottage was renovated in 2014 and is used as a spiritual retreat - please do not enter.



**4 Stone Well**  
The stone well in the bank beside the path is one of over 200 sunk in Victoria Plains and surrounding districts by the monks of New Norcia.



**5 Moore River**  
The river was named after George Fletcher Moore, an Irish lawyer who arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1830 and explored the Victoria Plains region in 1836.



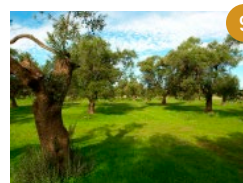
**6 Weir and Ford**  
The stone piers crossing the river were built as part of a weir wall in the mid-1980s. In 1986 a ford was created along the weir wall allowing walkers to cross the river.



**7 Apiary Landscape**  
In this paddock were once extensive orchards and vegetable gardens between the apiary and the monastery with a footbridge across the river connecting the two places.



**8 Apiary and Bishop's Well**  
The apiary building was sited here in 1918 at the eastern end of the main axis of the town. Bishop's Well is the largest surviving example of the wells built by Salvado and one of the oldest in the Victoria Plains.



**9 New Norcia Olive Grove**  
Olive trees were introduced to New Norcia on a small scale in the 1850s, with extensive planting beginning in the 1860s.



**10 Farm Road Bridge**  
This bridge is the main river crossing for the New Norcia farm. It is still in active use so please look out for vehicles when crossing.



**11 Monastery and Old Footbridge**  
From this location can be viewed the private grounds of the monastery. To the east, crossing the river, are the remains of a footbridge allowing access to the former vegetable gardens and orchards.

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