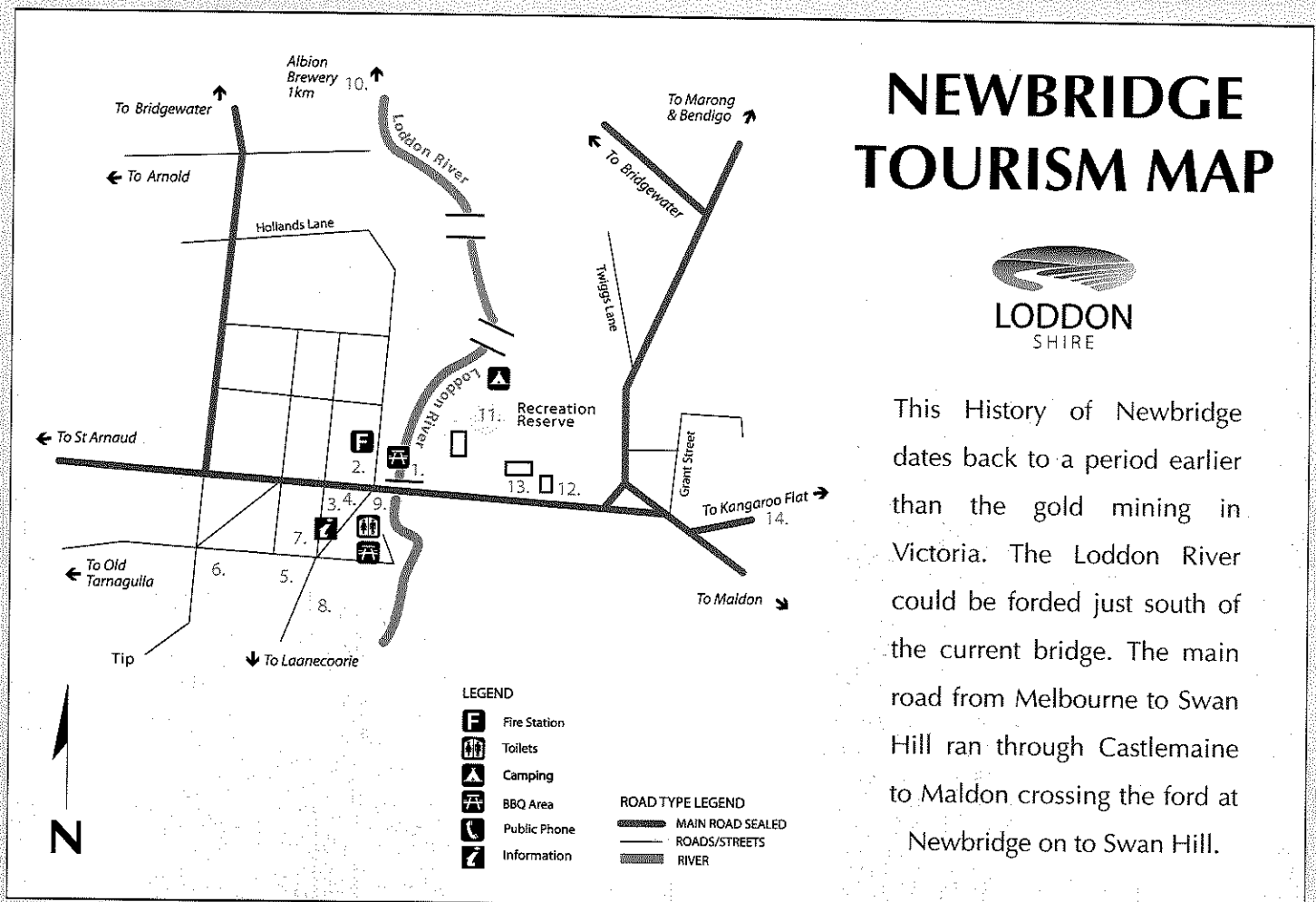


NEWBRIDGE TOURISM MAP



This History of Newbridge dates back to a period earlier than the gold mining in Victoria. The Loddon River could be forded just south of the current bridge. The main road from Melbourne to Swan Hill ran through Castlemaine to Maldon crossing the ford at Newbridge on to Swan Hill.



1. Bridge

The first crossing on this section of the Loddon River was a ford situated 100 metres south of the present bridge. It was from the first bridge erected in 1860 that Newbridge township got its name. The second was another wooden structure opened in 1937. The present bridge built from concrete and steel was finished and officially opened on the 5th of October, 1995.

2. Newbridge Hotel

Licensed in 1859 to John Jebb and was called the BRIDGE INN HOTEL. Name was changed later to BRIDGE HOTEL and later still to NEWBRIDGE HOTEL. The hotel offers cold refreshments, meals and country hospitality (03) 5438 7260.

3. General Store

John Elliot of Melbourne was granted the site in 1855. In 1861 Mr Pearson, a former grocer from Edinburgh, became the first grocer in Newbridge. He obtained the Post Office licence the same year. The Newbridge General Store has changed hands on several occasions. Proprietors have included: Yeo Brothers, Mr Glen Simpson (who had a mud brick store on the opposite side of the river, and bought the current General Store after his mud brick building was destroyed when the Laanecoore Weir broke and flooded Newbridge in 1909), Miss Claridge, a former employee of Mr Simpson, was the next owner. Other owners included Mal Judge, Andy Hamilton, Mr and Mrs White, John & Noelene Corry, Ruth and Sergio Sasso, Jack and Lorna Stewart, John, Lyn Horton, Wally Trew and Darryl & Beryl Peters (03) 5438 7201.

4. Soldier's Memorial

The memorial was unveiled in April 1920. Names were repainted in 1988.

5. Newbridge Primary School

Newbridge Primary School was completed April 27th, 1866. It closed in December 1993 and was sold at auction in 1996. The Newbridge Primary School served the community for over 128 years.

6. Double Storey School Residence

After a visit to Europe by the Minister for Education in Premier Thomas Betts government, this was one of three built early this century. Being like a Swill Chalet and built in a hot climate it was tagged "Sache's Folly".

7. Butcher's Shop

John Bayley's shop built from locally made bricks was operating in 1866. Ison brothers were possibly the last butchers.

8. Presbyterian Church

Rev. Hamilton was the first Minister inducted into Tarnagulla Presbytery area in 1863. The site for the Newbridge Presbytery was acknowledged in the Government Gazette 1870, and the land was reserved for the erection of the Presbyterian Church. The Church at Newbridge closed in 1938.

9. Public Hall

It was originally Lereux Store and in 1883 became the Mechanics Institute and Public Library. In later years it became the Public Hall. The current supper room was the original Hall prior to the new Hall being built in 1975.

10. Site of Day's Albion Brewery

This site is known locally as the Brewery Hole and is about 4km north of Newbridge on the Bridgewater Road. There is a small roadside reserve on the river. This is a good fishing spot.

11. Newbridge Reserve

In 1859 a request was made to Surveyor-General to have land on the east side of the river set aside for a public reserve. This was granted and Thomas Bayliss, Thomas King and Robert William Hammond were appointed as trustees. The Newbridge Reserve offers community sporting facilities. It has tennis courts, cricket/football ground, netball courts and a practice cricket pitch. The reserve is an excellent camping area for keen anglers, canoeists and the general public. The Newbridge Football Club celebrated its centenary year in 1988.

12. Returned Servicemen's League

First built as the Newbridge Common School before 1864 and owned by the Church of England. It was later used as a Sunday School Hall. In 1953 it was bought by the RSL and is used as a meeting place.

13. St John's Anglican Church

This Church was opened and dedicated on Wednesday October 12th, 1864 by the Archdeacon of Castlemaine. The consecration ceremony was conducted by Bishop Perry of Melbourne on April 17th, 1866. Services are still held at this church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

14. Cemetery

Located 4km east of Newbridge, this is the resting place of many Newbridge residents and early pioneering agriculturists who settled this area. Records of grave locations are being cared for by Mr Jack Stewart, Secretary to Cemetery Trust. Written records from the first burial to take place still exist.