

Points of Interest



1 Historic cemetery

Still in remarkably good condition, the old Graytown Cemetery is set in the forest approx. 700m off the main road. The cemetery features a Chinese burial section; a marble headstone dated in the early 1870s with text written in Welsh and numerous other headstones with inscriptions. The German Heritage Society and interested locals have been helping with restoration over the years.



2 Sites of War Internment Camps

During WW2, prisoners of war were camped at Graytown with approx. 250 Italian and German POWs detained there. The Germans were mostly crew from the German Raider Ship 'Kormoran' that sunk HMAS Sydney off the WA coast. Prisoners were guarded at night but able to work in the forest during the day and many of these men settled in the district after the war.



3 Mount Black lookout

In a beautiful bushland setting, Mount Black provides magnificent views of Heathcote and surrounds. Mount Black is the highest point in the area and was once a quarry source for the Goulburn Weir. Look out for spectacular Grass Trees.



Mining ruins

Reminders of this once rich mining town can be found with old poppet legs and covered mine shafts – some as deep as 165 metres.

Walks

The Heathcote-Graytown National Park is easily accessible by road and offers ample opportunity for bushwalking, orienteering, bird watching and more.



Walking tracks



Grass trees



Be sure to pick up these other great brochures for what to see and do while in the Heathcote region.



For more information, please contact

Heathcote Visitor Centre

Open daily 9am - 5pm (except Christmas Day)

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Graytown

Heathcote-Graytown National Park



History

Sitting halfway between Heathcote and Nagambie, and surrounded by moody Ironbark Forest, is Graytown.

The town was initially surveyed in 1848 however, it wasn't until 20 years later when gold was discovered that Graytown really exploded with 2,000 residents arriving in just two weeks. Between 1868 and 1870, Graytown enjoyed a population of 30,000 – similar to Ballarat at the time – and an 1871 census recorded 511 buildings in the area.

After the initial gold rush, lack of water became a significant issue at Spring Creek. To solve the problem of buying expensive water, many prospectors started washing their gold in beer, which was in abundant supply and much cheaper!

In 1870 a freak storm hit Graytown. Spring Creek, along with neighbouring creeks, overflowed and flooded many of the mineshafts – some with mining tools left behind from the day's work. In fact, the storm was so sudden, if it had arrived during the day, many miners would have lost their lives. The water was too much to deal with, gold was left, and the town was abandoned.

The forest has claimed much of the site that was once home to one of Victoria's biggest and shortest-lived gold rushes. Today much of the town's fame comes from talented local winemakers who have been producing exceptional wine for many generations.



National Park



Bushwalking



Graytown Cemetery