

*H*ERITAGE
*T*RAIL



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HOW TO GET THERE

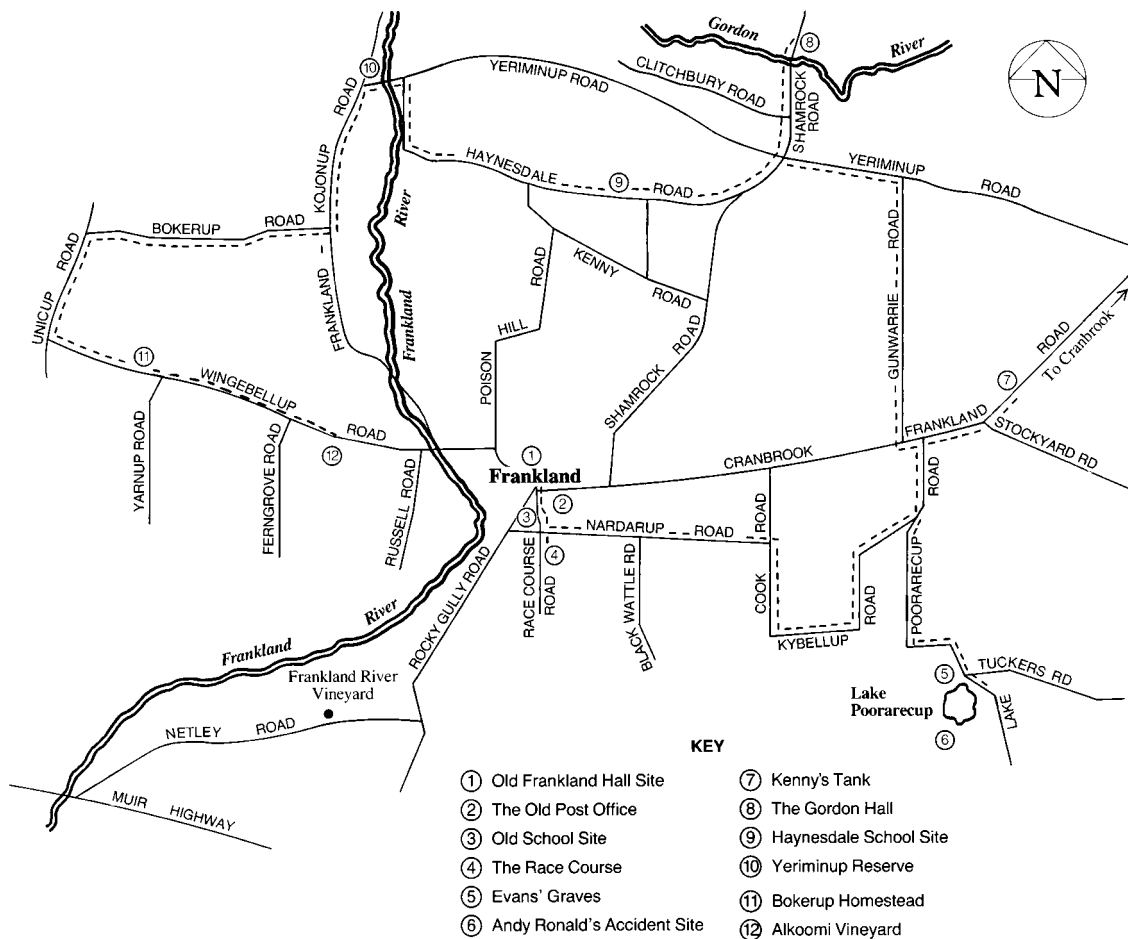
Frankland is approximately 370km south-south-east of Perth via Albany Highway (State Route 30), a drive of about 4 hours. The Frankland townsite is situated 47km west of Cranbrook via the Cranbrook-Frankland Road and the trail commences in the townsite and finishes at the Alkoomi Vineyard on Wingebellup Road.

The **Frankland Heritage Trail**, a drive of about 160km, highlights the history and development of this mixed farming district. It is an outing recommended for Frankland locals or those with a strong interest in the history of the Frankland area, and will take about three hours to complete. Following the trail map, look for signs bearing the Heritage Trails Network symbol.

Please note:

- The trail is mainly on gravel roads, and extra care should be taken.
- Visits to the vineyards on the trail are by appointment (see inside).
- Persons using this Heritage Trail do so at their own risk.

Front cover: *Horsemen outside the Frankland Hall, pre World War One.*
 Left to right: *Harry Smith, Joe Hough, Stanicy Martin (enlisted), Teddy Brown (enlisted, killed), Jack Donokue (enlisted), Bill Baxter (enlisted), Jack Higgins (enlisted, killed), Dick Herbert, Stafford Higgins (enlisted, killed) (courtesy C. Toovey).*



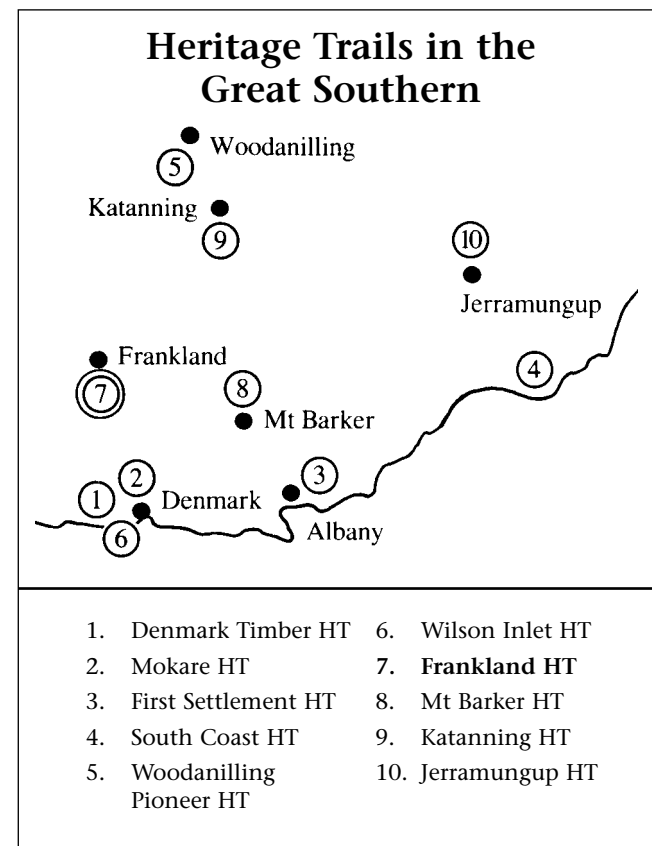
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE TRAILS NETWORK

History

The **Frankland Heritage Trail** is part of the Heritage Trails Network, a project for community participation originally devised by the Western Australian Heritage Committee (now known as the Heritage Council of Western Australia) in commemoration of the 1988 Bicentenary.

The Heritage Trails Network which was jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments under the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program was established to provide the Community with a Statewide network of "Heritage Trails" routes designed to enhance awareness and enjoyment of Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

The map below indicates Heritage Trails in the Great Southern region of Western Australia.



Western Australia's first European settlement began at Albany in 1826. Gradually the pioneers set out to explore the hinterland, hoping to find areas that would be more suitable for pastoral and agricultural holdings than the land in the immediate vicinity of the first settlement.

The Egerton-Warburtons, who took up 'Yeriminup' in 1857, were one of the first families to settle in the Frankland area. They were followed by the Moirs of 'Wingebellup and 'Glen Valley', shepherds for the Hassells of 'Mongetup', and the Mullins at 'Westfield'. A ticket-of-leave man, Anthony Walton, took up 'Wonnerup' in 1862 and employed a team of convicts to build a home on the property. Typical of homes of that time it was constructed of bricks that were made on the property, timber felled and hewn with the broadaxe and, originally, a roof constructed of white gum shingles. The house is still occupied by the present owners, the Weller family.



The old homestead at Wingebellup, 1919 (courtesy R. Brown).

John Hassell, a retired sea captain, was responsible for opening up extensive areas in the south of the State during the 1850s. He owned large flocks of sheep which needed the constant attention of shepherds as the only fences in existence were post-and-rail.

Many of these shepherds drove their flocks into the Frankland area, which has many small creeks surrounded by natural pasture that provided good feed for sheep during autumn, winter and spring. The permanent waters of the Frankland/Gordon Rivers and lakes such as Nunijup and Poorarecup also made the area attractive during summer.

Gradually families followed the shepherds into the area, mainly looking for land—among them were the Evans, Herberts, Gardiners, Nicols, Bakers, Haynes, Masons, Tooveys, Higgins and Grays.

The local Aborigines were mostly friendly and unfortunately many fell victim to disease and various vices of the Europeans. A Measles epidemic in the late 1880s and an Influenza epidemic in 1892 devastated the Aboriginal population.



Quinan (also known as Queen Anne) at 'Shamrock' with her granddaughter, 1920s (courtesy W. Lilford).

Frankland was one of the many districts to benefit from the completion of the Great Southern Railway in 1889. Although the line actually went through Cranbrook (47km away) timber workers in the Frankland area were kept busy supplying railway sleepers for the line. Settlement of the district expanded when some men who had worked on the railways later took up land in the area.

1. Old Frankland Hall Site

Cranbrook-Frankland Road



The Frankland Hall, c.1936 (courtesy G. Swiney).

In 1905 the people of Frankland built a hall on this site which became a central community facility and served as a school from 1912-1949.

After the Lands Department granted 10 acres (4ha) to three trustees (J. Higgins, B. Hyde and T. Hamerston), Jimmy Godden and the Haynes boys took the contract to pit saw all the required timber which was carted by J. Higgins and T. Parson. Jim Higgins also donated his services to cart the iron which was bought in Cranbrook, after T. Hamerston undertook to guarantee that the settlers would raise the funds to pay for it. Another member of the Hamerston family, Alex, undertook to build the hall for £12 and then on completion agreed to accept only £8. This tremendous community effort in developing a community resource was typical of the many small country centres in Western Australia at the time.

The hall was opened with great ceremony one night in November 1905 and the community was so pleased to finally have a hall that enough funds were raised at the opening to clear all the debts that had been incurred in its construction. The hall was dismantled in 1954 during construction of the new hall, which incorporated some timbers from the previous building.

2. The Old Post Office

Cranbrook-Frankland Road

Private property: Please view from the road.

Frankland first began to lose its sense of isolation when the Overland Telegraph line linked Albany with the Eastern States in 1872. Frankland was well served with mail deliveries from Cranbrook operated by men on horseback. James Tunney was one of these men who is still remembered for his efforts to ensure that the mail was delivered under all conditions in the 1890s. In later years a horse belonging to Strath Climie was estimated to have travelled over 4,480km on the mail run.

In 1924 the Frankland people built what is now known as the Old Post Office as a home for Ada Higgins and her young family after her husband Clem died as the result of a riding accident (as did his father before him). The mud bricks were made at the Government dam just outside the township and Jimmy Godden was the builder, helped by Mick and Claude Parsons, George and Jonas Haynes, Tom Herbert and Ted Baker.

In 1927 the house was sold to Ada and Jack Burnett who ran the post office in the years between 1929 and 1941.

In 1935 the name of the town was changed from Frankland River to Frankland and the Yetticup telephone exchange, which had operated since 1921, was relocated to the post office. During the war years the post office was conducted by Kath Herbert and the property was bought by Bob Faulkner in 1943.

Mary Burnett ran the post office before it was again sold in 1950 to Fred and Gwen Phipps. Later that year the part of the building which was used as the post office was moved, by Bill Herbert and Jack Sheedy using bulldozers, to the present shop site where postal services still operate.

3. Old School Site

Race Course Road



Mrs Alex Moir (sewing mistress), Mr Armstrong (Headmaster) and students of Frankland's first school, 1902. Mr Armstrong lost his life in 1906 when the 'Waratah' sank off the coast of South Africa (courtesy E. Parsons).

As families gradually came into the district following the shepherds and looking for land, the growth in population meant that education of the children became an urgent problem. For a while some settlers employed tutors or governesses, but in June 1896 the community decided to apply to the Education Department for a school. In February 1897 an area of 5 acres (2ha) was declared a reserve for educational purposes and a school was built by the settlers in 1898. It was constructed with slab walls and a dirt floor and was officially opened by the first headmaster, Charles Trent, in 1899. Trent had arrived at Albany aboard the mail boat, caught the train to Cranbrook and, carrying his few belongings, walked to his new school.

Among the first pupils attending were the Moirs, Higgins, Herberts, and later, the Gardiners and Haynes. During the early 20th Century the school was often closed when the number of pupils became too small. The old school was infrequently used until classes were held in the Frankland Hall from 1912. Over the years the original building deteriorated and today there are no remains.

4. The Race Course

Race Course Road

In 1902 a local Race Club was formed—one of the first country clubs to be registered in the State.

Race Days were well attended by locals and visitors who often brought their horses great distances to race.

Seen by members of the community as a time to settle old feuds and generally socialise, these events were looked forward to and the warm beer and spirits did little to dampen proceedings.

Race Day was attended by the tolerant and respected Irish policeman from Mt. Barker, who always had a busy time. As there was no jail in Frankland he would chain over enthusiastic racegoers to a large log on the course! Nevertheless, one year there were fierce fights all along the road from the course to the hall.

Race Day always ended with a Race Ball which would go on until sunrise when it was light enough to set off for home, most probably after a breakfast cooked on a campfire outside the hall.

The races, like so much else in Frankland, were the result of community effort. Families would join together for working bees to prepare the course and would serve in a variety of official positions to ensure the smooth running of the day.

The horses raced around the edge of the swamp while the judge sat in a paper-bark tree to survey the race. The jockeys weighed in with their feet off the ground clutching Stilliard Scales hung in a tree - these scales were commonly used on farms for weighing bags of grain, skins and wool.

5. Evans' Graves

Lake Poorarecup Road

A short walk (4-5 minutes) from the camping ground at Lake Poorarecup are the graves of Rose and William Evans, who lived by the old Rations Track which passed north of Lake Poorarecup. The Evans knew the country and settlers well and had been shepherds for the Hassells and Egerton-Warbutons. Rose Evans kept a diary in 1890 and mentions many of those travelling to Tenterden and further south. Their daughter Alice, born on January 7th, 1863 at Mongetup, is believed to have been the first European girl born in the Frankland district.

6. Andy Ronald's Accident Site

Follow the directional signs located at the Lake Poorarecup camping ground. The site is situated at the south side of the lake, a walk of 10 to 15 minutes.

Andy Ronald was born in South Australia in 1874 and walked across to the Western Australian Goldfields from Port Augusta (as the ships were too crowded), travelling mainly in the coolness of the night and living off the land.

He only stayed in the Goldfields a short while then walked on to Albany and finally to Kendenup to shepherd sheep for the Hassells. Ronald married Anne Moir in 1903 and worked around the district shepherding, fencing and dingo trapping. In June 1925 when he was managing Kybelup he was tragically killed while trapping dingoes. He had set a shotgun trap and when following the dog trail, must have accidentally disturbed a stick which caught the spring wire. The shotgun blast shattered his left leg just below the knee. Ronald tried to crawl home but as his smashed limb was impeding his progress he decided to cut it off. His two small daughters found him, however he died shortly before Dr Abernethy arrived from Kojonup.

7. Kenny's Tank

Cranbrook-Frankland Road

For many years Kenny's Tank was a camping area for people travelling between Cranbrook and Frankland. It provided natural shelter and good water for many horse and bullock teams. Many of the older residents of the district have nostalgic memories of the smoky companionship of campfires around this site.

The actual 'tank' was a well put down by Ken Moir (who later lost his life in First World War One) with the help of Dick Spencer and Mick Toomey. It was faced with slabs of timber and its remains can be seen at the southeast corner of the swamp, a walk of a few minutes.



A team of dam-sinking horses at Gordon River, 1930 (courtesy E. Parsons).

8. The Gordon Hall

Shamrock Road



The Gordon Hall, c. 1923 (courtesy E. Parsons).

In 1921 the residents at Gordon River applied for a combined hall and school. The application was signed by the Baker, Cuss, Pope, Palmer, Theyer and Weller families. The school opened in a room provided by W. Pope with Miss D. Newland as the first teacher, but from 1923 the school was operated from the local hall which had been built by the settlers. The hall was used for church purposes, meetings and dances for many years and in 1988 was restored by a hard working committee who were primarily concerned by the risk to the public of falling timbers. Work on the building included the removal of the supper room which returned the hall to its original size.

9. Haynesdale School Site

Haynesdale Road

In 1919 Miss Doris Catchpole was sent to Haynesdale to open a new school. She eventually arrived, at what probably seemed to her, to be the end of the earth, to find no equipment or furniture in the room provided for school purposes by the Haynes family. Thirteen children initially attended the school and in 1920 a new school was built on land donated by James Devine. When the school closed in 1942 the building was bought by Jack Devine and used for farm purposes.

10. Yeriminup Reserve

Yeriminup Road



Yeriminup, c. 1905 (courtesy A. Egerton-Warburton).

Clem Higgins and Archie Holmes lie in lonely graves on this reserve, which was declared an official cemetery in 1988. Clem Higgins died as the result of a riding accident and Archie Holmes was a farmer who died of cancer resulting from wounds he sustained in First World War One (1914-1918). Across the gully is an Aboriginal burial ground signposted as a sacred site. This was a favourite meeting ground for members of the Bibbulmun tribe in times past.

Yeriminup was taken up in 1857 by the Egerton-Warburton family. George Egerton-Warburton came from Tasmania in 1840 and married a daughter of Sir Richard Spencer. Using St. Werburgh's at Mt. Barker as a home-base the Egerton-Warburton family spread out to various sheep stations. The property at Frankland was one of their fruitful investments.

*Other sites of importance to the Spencer and Egerton-Warburton families are featured on the **Mount Barker Heritage Trail** and the **First Settlement Heritage Trail**. Brochures are available from the Shire of Plantagenet and the Town of Albany.*

Yeriminup became a mixed farming enterprise with fruit orchards, sheep and cattle.

11. Bokerup Homestead

Bokerup Nature Reserve, Wingebellup Road - 26km from Frankland, on the right.

Please note:

- *The lighting of fires is prohibited and dogs are not allowed in the area.*
- *The track into the reserve is accessible in dry weather and provides the opportunity for a pleasant walk from Wingebellup Road.*

Very little evidence remains of the homestead, orchard, garden and farm buildings that were once located in this area which was resumed in 1949 by the Government. Part of the resumed land, including the area of the first settlement in Bokerup, was declared a reserve and the rest was opened up as either Conditional Purchase Blocks or Perpetual Lease Properties.



Chaff cutting in the Frankland district (courtesy E. Parsons).

The first recorded settlers in this area were the Miniters, whose property was later bought by Sir Thomas Cockburn Campbell. It was later acquired by Augustus Egerton-Warburton before he moved to this location on the Bokerup Swamp where he built a homestead during the 1880s. The Warburton family lived in this still, lonely area until they moved to Kojonup. Their infant son, who died when he was just 26 days old, is buried in a marked grave towards the east end of the reforestation area.

In 1914 the Scott family bought the farm and lived there for some thirty years. Mrs Scott died in 1921 and her grave can be found at the far east end of the swamp.

12. Alkoomi Vineyard

Wingebellup road

Wine tasting by appointment (08) 9855 2229

Frankland is regarded as a leading area for the production of fine table wines, many of which have won awards.

Alkoomi was established in 1971 when 3 acres of vines were planted. More vines have been planted over the years and the winery was built in 1977. The wines produced here have won many awards and are well known.

*Those interested in vineyards may wish to visit the **Frankland River Vineyard**, on Netley Road (via Cranbrook-Frankland Road). Established in 1970, it has 90 hectares planted and produces a range of classic wine varieties. Please telephone (08) 9855 1563 to arrange a visit.*

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

The **Frankland Heritage Trail** was developed by the Frankland Heritage Trail Committee: E. Devine, G. & R. Brown, A. & C. Egerton-Warburton, I. & T. Haynes, R. & D. Coole, E. McNabb, G. & K. Swiney and B. & G. Walsh. The Committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following:

- Cranbrook Shire Council
- Frankland Tourist and Promotion Committee
- Mark Dorrington (photographer)
- Frankland Primary School
- Judith Toovey (typist)



A. C. Gardiner in his first Ford with Harry Cowan (driver) and Tom Mulherrin (policeman), c.1914 (courtesy C. Toovey).

The photographs in this brochure are courtesy of:

- R. Brown
- A. Egerton-Warburton
- W. Lilford
- E. Parsons
- G. Swiney
- C. Toovey

*F*URTHER READING

The Shire of Cranbrook: **Its History and Development. Commemorating the Jubilee Year of Local Government 1926-1976.**
(Shire of Cranbrook Jubilee Publication.)

Maxine Laurie **Frankland to the Stirlings: A History of the Cranbrook Shire.**
(Shire of Cranbrook, 1994).

