

Gulgong Symbol Trail

THE SECRET TRAVELLERS' LANGUAGE WAS USED INTERNATIONALLY – BY THE GYPSIES OF EUROPE AND CARRIED BY MIGRATIONS TO THE HOBOS OF AMERICA AND THE SWAGGIES OF AUSTRALIA.

			
Good place for a handout	Temperamental people	Keep away – unless to call	Angry dogs
			
Work before you eat	Dangerous drinking water	I have gone home	OK, alright
			
Good road to follow	Good workhouse	Tell a pathetic story	A good day's work is found
			
Dangerous people	Good haystack for sleeping		
			
Money usually given here	The sky's the limit		

Local identity and well-known potter Chester Nealie was commissioned by our local Council to research the symbols and make decorative paving tiles representing this secret language. Wander Gulgong's historic streets and see how many you can find and what they refer to. Tiles appear in Coronation Park and Mayne Street (from White to Herbert Streets). Look around and see if you can find some of the humorous locations like the ones that say 'dangerous drinking water' (outside the pubs!).

The Cemetery is on the southern edge of Gulgong and is accessible by foot. The Gulgong Historical Walk booklet is available for a small cost at the Mudgee and Gulgong Visitor Information Centres and many outlets in Gulgong, and is an essential touring guide to this unique town.

The Gulgong Historical Walk booklet is a comprehensive walking guide to the town's historic buildings, and includes the Henry Lawson Driving Trail and the Gulgong Cemetery walk.

During the last Depression and in the Gold Rush days, people travelling country roads in search of work, food or just a place to sleep the night, used a secret code of symbols via stones, sticks or scratches on the ground, to communicate 'the lie of the land' to fellow swaggies.



1. HISTORICAL CHURCH HILL

Gulgong has three churches that conduct Sunday Services: St Luke's Anglican Church c.1876, St John the Baptist Catholic Church c.1890 and the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church c.1909. The Wesleyan Chapel built c.1871 and the Uniting church built in the early 1900's are now private residences. See the Gulgong Historical Walk Booklet for more information.

2. GULGONG PIONEERS MUSEUM

Established in 1962, the museum is home to one of the finest collections of Australiana in the Country and is known as one of the top four folk museums in NSW. With over an acre of land and 60,000 items on display, there is sure to be something for everyone.

3. THE HENRY LAWSON CENTRE MUSEUM

A museum dedicated to Lawson's life and literary works. The Henry Lawson Centre Museum takes visitors through the phases of the writer's life, from his birth in 1867 to his death in 1922.

4. GULGONG HOLTERMANN MUSEUM

This contemporary museum, housed in two State Heritage Listed buildings, is

home to the renowned UNESCO listed Holtermann Collection of photographs taken during the 1870's of Sydney, Melbourne, Gulgong and its surrounding areas. Photos are available on interactive touchscreens and a complimentary interactive street trail is available to take a selection of these photographs onto the streets of Gulgong.

5. THE PRINCE OF WALES OPERA HOUSE

Built in 1871, it is the oldest still-operating Opera House in the Southern Hemisphere. Dame Nellie Melba has performed on its stage and several generations have seen their first theatrical production under this historic roof. Open for inspection by arrangement.

6. MILEPOST & HORSE TROUGH

George and Annis Bills were involved in numerous animal welfare projects, and following George's death in 1927 a trust fund was set up for concrete horse troughs to be financed and installed in many country towns on stock routes and main roads in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Western Australia between 1930 and 1939.

7. GULGONG GOLD EXPERIENCE

Take a walk back in time and visit where it all began. Red Hill was the location where Tom Saunders first found gold in Gulgong in 1870. We invite you to visit the replica underground mining tunnel and view the poppet head over an original mine shaft to gain insight into Gulgong's Gold Rush era.

8. GULGONG FLIRTATION HILL LOOKOUT

This lookout has 270-degree views over the town of Gulgong and its stunning rural surrounds. Located on the eastern side of the Gulgong township, it is a great location to view a sunrise or sunset.

9. ANZAC MEMORIAL ROTUNDA

The memorial rotunda in Gulgong's ANZAC Park is the second oldest in Australia. It was built in 1916, two years before World War I ended, and was officially unveiled in 1918. The top of the memorial represents a soldier's tin hat worn on the battlefield. The eight pillars give symbolic reference to the six states and two territories of Australia.