

## HISTORY

Many of the historic buildings along Nelson and Victoria Streets (Western Highway) have plaques recording building dates and past uses. Further information regarding the buildings can be obtained at the Visitor Information Centre and the Nhill Historical Society. A self guided tour is being developed for visitors' convenience.

### Aboriginal Heritage

A canoe tree is located at Jaypex Park. The Corroboree Ground situated around the Nhill Lake and Swamp area is a traditional location where groups would meet and perform ceremonies, consisting of traditional songs, dances, weddings, trading and celebrations.

### Band Rotunda

Funded jointly by Council and the community, the rotunda was erected in 1909. It was extensively refurbished in 2000.

### Cemetery Information

Our local cemeteries contain history from the region and individuals. Anyone interested in contacting the cemetery trusts can telephone Hindmarsh Shire Council on (03) 5391 4444 for the local contact. The local cemeteries include Bleak House, Dahwadare, Kiata, Lorquon, Netherby, Nhill, Winiam and Woorak.



Historical Society

## ACTIVITIES

### Bird watching

Nhill Lake offers bird watchers and water enthusiasts a sanctuary right in the heart of town. Field trips within driving distance of Nhill are held almost every month on a Sunday. Some other favourite birding places nearby are Glenlee Reserve, Little and Big Desert National Parks. A local bird list and contacts are available at the Hindmarsh Visitor Information Centre.

### Bushwalking

From 30 minutes to 3 day treks, there is a walking track to suit everyone. Witness first-hand the abundant bird and plant life Hindmarsh has to offer.

The Little and Big Deserts, and Wyperfeld National Parks all offer fantastic walking tracks. The Little Desert Nature Lodge offers an insight into the flora and fauna of the Desert, right on Nhill's doorstep. Walking trails also lead from the Little Desert Nature Lodge into the adjacent National Park.

### Four Wheel Driving

If you are into the thrill of four wheel driving there are tracks to inspire and entertain you. Plan your trip safely, visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) for up to date information. Please note that all vehicles and motorbikes must stay on designated tracks and have appropriate registrations and licences.



Nhill Golf Club



Nhill Bowling Club

## Historical Society

The Nhill Historical Society located at 104 - 106 Macpherson Street is open 2 - 5pm Tuesdays and Thursdays and the research officer is available on-site 10am to midday on Fridays. Contact and requests for information can also be made via email [nhillhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:nhillhistorical@gmail.com).

The society is proud of its collection of local family history, cemetery records for the Nhill and surrounding district cemeteries, photographic collection, rate books and museum displays. Copies of the local newspaper "The Nhill Free Press" from 1882 to current day are also available.

The museum display includes an extensive collection of John Shaw Neilson memorabilia, crockery, glassware, kitchenware, household items, wedding dresses dating from 1860 to 1980, embroidery, Lowan Shire honour boards, and photographs.

### Inverness Motors

An ideal stop for car enthusiasts, Inverness Motors located in Kiata (15km from Nhill) offers a museum of vintage and collectable cars. Viewing is by appointment, please telephone Rod Warrick on 5389 9287.

### John Shaw Neilson Cottage

Members of the Nhill and District Historical Society reconstructed the two original rooms of the home in which Nhill's poet John Shaw Neilson was born. The cottage is located on a site adjoining Jaypex Park. Neilson was one of Australia's great lyric poets. He wrote about his life spent in and around Nhill.

### Malleefowl Memorial

Located at the front of the council offices in Nhill. The Malleefowl is a unique bird which builds large earth mounds to incubate its eggs.

### Nhill Aerodrome

Famous aviators who have landed at Nhill include Bert Hinkler, Charles Butler, "Horrie" Miller, Charles Kingsford Smith, Amy Johnson, Jimmy Mollison and Nancy Bird and almost every major figure in Australia's aviation history. Nhill also hosted the first East-West Air Race from Sydney to Perth in 1929 and the Brisbane-Adelaide centenary race in 1936.

### Golf

The Nhill Golf Club has become known as the Wimmera's best kept secret. Open all year round, the large manicured greens compliment the flat to slightly undulating tree-lined fairways, with beautifully shaped and positioned bunkers. The course is watered all year, keeping it in excellent condition. Due to the abundance of bore water, it does not suffer from drought conditions.

Three major tournaments are held over the year open to all levels of golfers:

- Autumn - Labour Day weekend in March
- Club - Queen's Birthday weekend in June
- Spring - Second weekend in October

Regular competition days are ladies on Wednesdays (tee off approximately 9.30am) and open events on Saturday, tee off time midday.

Baker Golf Club, located on Baker Road, Baker is a seasonal sand scrape course, open April - October. The annual tournament is held over the second weekend in August.

### Lawn Bowls

Nhill Bowling Club offers two synthetic greens with competition every Saturday commencing at 1pm. The club is located central to town with entry off Davis Avenue. The main tournament is hosted over the Labour Day Weekend in March. All visitors are welcome at anytime.



Avro Anson at the Nhill Aerodrome

Nhill's aerodrome attained national significance during the Second World War as the site of a Royal Australian Air Force Base. Between 1941 and 1946, approximately 10,000 Air Force personnel trained at Nhill. Aspects of training required a bombing range which was set up in the Little Desert south of Nhill Township. Avro Ansons were the main aircraft used in training, with up to 35 Ansons on the Base on any given day.

The Nhill Aviation Heritage Centre tells the story of the local aviation history with exciting displays and memorabilia, including the restoration of an Avro Anson and a very early example of a flight simulator. Open 10am to 4pm weekends and public holidays, or by prior arrangement.

### Nhill Railway Station

The section of railway line from Dimboola to Nhill, 65 mile, and then onto the South Australian

border was opened on 19 January 1887 at a cost of £514.12. Nhill Railway Station and platform buildings were completed two years later, in 1889, at a cost of £3,783.

### Noske Flour Mills

The prominent Noske's Flour Mill silo, built in 1919, at the time was the tallest single concrete storage bin in the southern hemisphere with a storage capacity of 120,000 bushells.

### Post Office

Nhill Post Office foundation stone was consecrated on 28 October 1887 using corn as plenty, wine as joy and oil as gladness. The first post office operating in Nhill commenced on 1 September 1861, remaining open until 10 April 1867 when a post office was opened at nearby Lawloit. There were a number of changes to the mail route serving Nhill over the years.



Post Office

### Talking Draught Horse

This monument in Goldsworthy Park is a reminder of the major part the draught horse played in the development of Australia and this region. The memorial, erected in April 1966 was modeled on a Clydesdale and modified to look like the original draught horse. The first two horses arrived in Nhill in 1844. A team of horses hauled Nhill's first harvest 100 miles (160kilometres) to the nearest rail head at Stawell for delivery to Melbourne.

### Vintage Machinery Shed

The Nhill Vintage Machinery Club is a group within the Nhill A&P Society with the aim of restoring and showing older farm machinery. A shed at the Nhill show grounds houses current and completed restoration projects. The shed is open every Friday afternoon and anyone is welcome to call in to view the collection.

### War Memorials

The World War I memorial was erected in 1920 in memory of the people who lost their lives during this war. This was part of a nationwide project.

All local people who served during World War II are named on an honour board on display in the Nhill Memorial Community Centre.

More recently, in 2011 a Royal Australian Air force memorial was erected to honour those who served.



### Photography/Painting

The local scenery leads itself to wonderful photographic opportunities. The local camera club members explore the area extensively and produce magnificent photos. Local artists also depict the area in beautiful landscapes, flora, and fauna artwork.

### Tennis

Nhill has excellent all-year round synthetic grass courts central to the town, located on Station Street, off Whitehead Avenue. There is easy parking, seating for viewing and no booking is necessary. A summer competition is run every year with matches held on Saturdays. The courts are free for the public to use at their will with no booking required.

The Nhill Junior tennis tournament is held annually in February and attracts participants from all over the Wimmera. It's one of the biggest tournaments on a circuit run throughout the Wimmera. Participants get a ranking, allowing competition in squads in Melbourne.

### Swimming pool

Nhill swimming pool is located in Whitehead Ave. There is a six lane, solar heated 25 metre pool, along with a learners / hydro pool, beach entry pool and shaded picnic areas. The pool is open seasonally, please check opening times at Council by telephoning 5391 4444.

### Water skiing

Nhill Lake, a small seasonal lake on the very edge of Nhill offers the opportunity for boat and water lovers to enjoy the water activities, including water skiing.

The Nhill Lake Committee invites everyone to use the facilities at the lake and also to adhere to local and boating rules. A swimming area is marked by red buoys and is prohibited to all vessels. Boat users are requested to refer to the information board at the boat ramp for local rules.

## NHILL FACILITIES

- |                     |                    |                |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Accommodation       | Ambulance          | ATM            |
| Banks               | Barbeque           | Bicycle Tracks |
| Boat Ramp           | Caravan Park       | Church         |
| Disabled Facilities | Dump Point         | Golf Course    |
| Hospital            | Information Centre | Parking        |
| Petrol              | Picnic Tables      | Pharmacy       |
| Playground          | Post Office        | Police         |
| Swimming            | Toilets            | Walking Tracks |
| Water Skiing        |                    |                |



Water Skiing at Nhill Lake



Nhill Lake Swamp

## NATURE

Nature, outdoors and wide open spaces is our flagship. Nestled amongst the Little and Big Desert National Parks, our region has plenty to offer nature lovers. Take some time out to stop and enjoy nature at whatever pace you fancy; walking, cycling, four wheel driving or just resting in one of the many parks and nature areas. The region boasts many natural swamps and dams, home to many species of bird and wild life.

Four wheel driving enthusiasts will find many tracks through the Little and Big Desert and Wyperfeld National Parks.

### Glenlee Nature Reserve

Home for many indigenous plants and varieties of birds, the Glenlee Nature Reserve boasts a wonderful display of spring flowers.

### Herman's Hill Nature Walk

Herman's Hill Nature Walk is located to the north-east of Nhill (take the Nhill-Rainbow Road) on the edge of Wyperfeld National Park, between Jeparit and Rainbow. Here you can take a walk through the mallee-scrub to a hill overlooking the surrounding district. You will find a bird-hide and an information bay.

The track is sandy through paperbarks. Information on plants, birds and other living things is provided in notices under well designed lift-up aluminium covers.

The track rises a total of 25 metres but there are a few ups and downs on the way. At the top there is a low timber platform permitting visitors to see over most of the surrounding vegetation.

### Little Desert Nature Lodge

Enjoy a unique environmental experience at Little Desert Nature Lodge, a peaceful hidden treasure set on 117 hectares of natural bushland.



Little Desert National Park

The Little Desert Nature Lodge offers a range of comfortable accommodation and camping options with the birdlife, emus and kangaroos literally at your doorstep.

The Lodge's airconditioned dining room features a beautiful limestone fireplace where delicious meals can be enjoyed by the glow of an open log fire. The dining room has a fully licensed bar where patrons can partake in a selection of fine wines and beer in a friendly atmosphere.

### Broken Bucket, Big Desert

Despite the name, bore water is available at Broken Bucket, and there are toilets here as well. It is signposted approximately 53km north of Nhill. Please check road conditions before commencing travel, some access is restricted to dry weather due to the sandy track.

### Murrayville Track

This track is in the Big Desert National Park and conditions vary considerably depending on the weather. From Nhill, travel towards Yanac and then follow the signs to Broken Bucket. Please check local conditions before using the track.

The Lodge is 16km south of Nhill just off the Western Highway, situated on the edge of the pristine Little Desert National Park. You will find the Lodge to be a peaceful and relaxing base for your next adventure.

Founded in 1970 and acquired by Conservation Volunteers Australia in 2011, the local guides willingly share their knowledge and passion for the Little Desert including highlights such as:

- The rare and elusive Malleefowl or 'Lowan' bird
- A unique school environmental education program
- Guided tours
- Excellent accommodation and camping facilities
- Nocturnal wildlife encounters
- Stunning wildflowers
- Abundant birds and wildlife
- Bushwalking and nature trails

Along with Malleefowl, the sanctuary's pristine Mallee-broom bush habitat is home to a number of sought-after bird species, including Southern Scrub-Robin and Shy Heathwren - a must for any avid birdwatcher.



Malleefowl Viewing

## RURAL COMMUNITIES

Nhill and District is made up of a number of rural communities. Historically many of the communities consisted of a general store, a school, a local church, the community hall and some even had a pub. Many locals took the trip into town (Nhill) only once a month or for a special occasion. Presently, many rural residents commute to Nhill, and beyond, daily for school, work and other services.



Sunset over farmland

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

In addition to events mentioned throughout this brochure, Nhill offers the following:

### Agricultural Show

With a proud record of Annual shows since the inaugural show in 1884, the Nhill A&P Society



Sideshow alley at the Nhill A&P Show

has demonstrated that it can deliver an event which entertains and excites its audience and fulfils its commitment to building community trust and involvement.

The Nhill A and P Society Show is held on the second Thursday in October. Complete with grand parade, photography, arts and craft, agricultural, floral, cooking displays, an entertaining sideshow alley for all ages, and of course dagwood dogs and showbags, there is something for everyone.

The Nhill show has the reputation of being one of the best in the Wimmera.

### Horse Racing

The annual Boxing Day Jim's Butchery / Luv-A-Duck Cup is not to be missed. Whether you're there for the fashions on the field or the fillies on the track, the Nhill racecourse is off and racing each Boxing Day. Lush green grassy surrounds, market umbrellas as well as big shady trees make for a very comfortable day with a crowd usually around the 1000 mark.

First race is approximately 1pm, with usually an 8 race event featuring the Nhill Cup as the main race. Light meals and refreshments are available between races, along with live entertainment.



Boxing Day Races

### Market

A bi-monthly market hosted by the Rotary Club of Nhill Inc. operates in Goldsworthy Park, Nhill's town centre, on the 3rd Sunday of the month, from 10am - 1pm. For more information please contact nhillmarket@gmail.com.

### Motorcycle Club Enduro

The annual pony express motorcycle enduro is held annually in July. Located on the Nhill - Jeparit Road, the site hosts over 100 competitors and spectators from around Victoria at the annual event. Please refer to the website www.nhillmotorcycleclub.com.au for further information.



Motorcycle Club Enduro

### Sheep Dog Trials

The annual sheep dog trials held mid March attract entries from all over Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. The event is held at the Nhill Showgrounds, over two full days and spectators are very welcome to watch the dogs go through their paces with their owners. Morning and afternoon tea is available as well as a luncheon both days.

Welcome to  
**Nhill**

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

## WELCOME

Midway between Melbourne and Adelaide, Nhill is a thriving country town offering a picturesque place to stop, explore, and recharge. Surrounded by the Little and Big Desert National Parks, the commercial centre of Nhill has attractive parks and gardens within the median strip. Nhill is home to many places of interest worth a visit.

The historic town walk highlights many architectural wonders. The town was first surveyed in 1879, when Olivers Flour Mill was built and by 1880 a general store, drapery, and hotel were all built. In 1897 a major tornado destroyed most of Nhill but the historic Post Office, built 1887, survived and still features in the town.

Nhill is part of the Hindmarsh Shire which covers an area of over 7,500 square kilometres. The population of Nhill, at the 2011 census, was 2,278.

Agriculture is the major industry, not only of Nhill but the whole Hindmarsh region. 62% of all business enterprises are in this sector, based largely on grain and sheep production.

Nature enthusiasts can go four wheel driving then camp under our big sky with countless stars to watch over you. Water lovers can enjoy waterskiing, rowing or canoeing at Nhill Lake, conditions permitting.

Don't forget to pack your golf clubs and enjoy a relaxing, peaceful hit of golf. Perhaps a game of lawn bowls would be a pleasant way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

If history is more your thing, Nhill's prolific Historical Society is jam-packed with information and stories of yesteryear.

Our wide open spaces provide the perfect spot for photographers and painters alike, with endless sunsets and scenic views of wildflowers, flora, and fauna.

Whether you're visiting for an afternoon, a weekend or longer, there are many places of interest and things to do in Nhill. Stop, relax, and enjoy our big skies, big lakes, and big deserts.

explore the region

## PARKS AND GARDENS

Goldsworthy Park, in the median strip of the Western Highway and Jaypex Park on the western end of town provide shady areas to rest and recharge in the lovely surrounds.

Each of the parks has free barbecue facilities, playgrounds, seating, and reputable toilet facilities. The parks are immaculately maintained and have green grass all year round.

Goldsworthy Park features a fully fenced playground area, providing a safe environment for children and families to play and rest. The Hindmarsh Visitor Information Centre, located next to the playground provides a range of local, regional and state information to assist with your visit and future travels.

A current community project is underway to restore the boardwalk over the Nhill Swamp which can be accessed off Jaypex Park.

## ARTS AND CULTURE

### Gallery Central

Feeling creative or want to view other local creations? Pop into Gallery Central at Victoria Street. Open Monday to Saturday, 10.00am to 4.00pm, the gallery displays work in a variety of media all created by local artists. Displays are updated regularly including past exhibitions of Nhill College VCE Arts, themes based on aviation and local identities.

### Nhill Memorial Community Centre

Originally built in 1927, the centre was initially a private enterprise then purchased by local government and refurbished in 1987 and 2009. The centre provides a magnificent venue for community events, debutante balls, cabarets, live performances, and regular movie screenings. Please check the display boards at the front and side of the centre for upcoming events and movies.

### Piggery Lane Players

Piggery Lane Players has been performing plays, musicals and dramas for the Nhill community since 1970. The group is full of enthusiasm and commitment to bring an always entertaining show to Nhill annually. Performances are not to be missed and take pride of place on many calendars, of visitors and locals alike. Nhill is fortunate to have many talented actors and support people to ensure a magnificent performance every time. For more information please refer to www.facebook.com/PiggeryLanePlayers.



Commercial and Farmers Arms, Nhill



Goldsworthy Park



Nhill Memorial Community Centre

## PARKS VICTORIA

Visitors should be aware of and prepare themselves and their vehicles for all hazards in Victoria's parks.

Some parks may be closed due to weather conditions. Check www.bom.gov.au before you leave and throughout your trip. Register your trip by completing the trip intentions form on www.police.vic.gov.au and let someone know the details of your trip.

Be sun smart; and always carry drinking water with you.

If you are enjoying the many water spots around Hindmarsh Shire, make sure you are safe and have all relevant boat and fishing licences.

Please be aware there may be minimal or no mobile phone range in some areas.

For more tips go to www.parkweb.vic.gov.au or call 13 19 63.

## FIRE DANGER INFORMATION

Fire restrictions are applied across Victoria by CFA, when fire danger is high. Typically this is over the period of November through to April. Nhill is within the 'Wimmera' Fire Ban District.

At the end of the fire season a number of farmers will burn off stubble and smoke may be evident in the area.

For information on Fire Danger and Total Fire Bans go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au

## EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Police 000  
Fire 000  
Ambulance 000

Nhill Hospital 5391 4222  
Nhill Police 5391 1022  
Victorian SES 13 25 00  
(State Emergency Services)



Wimmera Mallee Tourism Website

www.sheltonprint.com.au

