



GUMERACHA TOWNSHIP

HISTORICAL TRAIL



A Joint Enterprise by
The Gumeracha Community
Association Inc.

&

The Gumeracha and District
History Centre Inc.





**William Beavis Randell –
Founder of Gumeracha:**

William Beavis was born in 1799 in Kenton, Devonshire, England. He arrived in South Australia in 1837, accompanied by his wife and seven children. Employed by the South Australian Company, William Beavis is recognised as the founder of Gumeracha and district, establishing farmland and settling his family in the area. As Randell's enterprises prospered so the township and surrounding district grew.

1. Federation Park:

In 1882 the Gumeracha Institute obtained a lease from W.R. Randell of 7 acres for 21 years. A further 6 acres was leased in 1909, and purchased in 1917. Another 9 and half acres were added in 1928. The park was redesigned in 2001 to commemorate the Centenary of Federation.

20. Memorial Arch:

The Arch is a memorial to the 'well tragedy' (see also 19). It has had several sites around the town, but is now situated at the entrance to Federation Park. **The Trooper Moore Memorial** commemorates the death of a local young man in the Boer War.

2/3. Town Hall:

The first institute building was constructed in 1864 in Murray Street, but was later demolished. The building now standing in Albert Street was built in 1909, and for some years it housed the District Council of Talunga. The Hall was restored to its former glory in 1999 by members of the Torrens Valley Lions Club. With new extensions, it is now the Civic Centre, with Council Services, Library, History Centre, RSL room, and the Torrens Valley Community Centre in the extension completed in May 2005.

7. Gumeracha Hotel:

The Hotel in Albert Street began business in 1861, and continues to the present day.

8. Coach House and Stables:

Situated behind the Gumeracha Hotel in John Fisher Avenue, the Coach-House and Stables were an important horse change-over stop for coaches travelling to and from Adelaide. It is now a private residence.

9. Ring of Oaks:

A unique feature of the Salem Baptist Church was the open-air baptistery on the opposite side of the road. After an earthquake in 1899, the spring stopped flowing. The pool was then filled in, and the shady site was used for tea meetings. It is now a public park.

10. Randell's Mill:

Established on the banks of Kenton Creek by William Beavis Randell as a flour mill in 1847, and operated as such until the 1874. It is now a private residence.

11. Mill Cottage:

Mill Cottage was built as a residence for the Mill managers, and was first occupied by William Richard and John Randell, the sons of William Beavis. It is now a private residence.

12. First Police Station and Hospital:

The first Police Station and Courthouse was built in 1856 in Victoria Street. From 1910 - 1922 it operated as a Hospital. It is now a private residence.

13. Salem Baptist Church and Cemetery:

Founded in 1843, the first part of the church was built in 1845 on land donated by William Beavis Randell. The grave of William Richard Randell is located in the church's cemetery.



**William Richard Randell -
'Pioneer of the River Murray'**

The eldest son of William Beavis and Mary Ann Randell was born in Devon, England in 1824.

14. Uniting Church:

The site of the Methodist Church and Manse was donated by J. Monfries, and officially opened in 1860. The church is still in operation today, but the Manse is now a private residence.

15. Former Kenton Inn:

Gumeracha's first hotel was established in 1855. Originally named the Kenton Arms, then Kenton Inn, but locally known as the "Top Hotel, it operated until 1944 when it was converted to a private dwelling.

18. Post Office:

Postal services came to Gumeracha in 1848, and the Gumeracha Postal service was made official in 1851. The present Post Office building in Albert Street was built in the early 1900's, and has remained virtually unchanged to this day.

19. Police Station:

The Police Station and Courthouse in Albert Street was built in 1865, and is the second-oldest country police building still in use. The Courthouse was officially closed in 1984.

Police Heritage Site:

In 1990 the SA Police Historical Society placed a memorial plaque in the front of the Police Station in memory of those who died in the 'well tragedy'.

It commemorates the first Police Heritage Site in the State.

23. Kenton Park Estate:

The house was built in 1846 by William Beavis Randell, and was home to generations of the Randell family. It is still a private residence, but is on the National Trust Heritage list.

24. Gumeracha District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital:

Built in 1922, the hospital was built as a permanent memorial to the soldiers of the district.

25. Primary School:

The oldest section of the present school was built in 1913, and extensions were added in 1983.

Other Sites Within Driving Distance:

Towards Forreston:

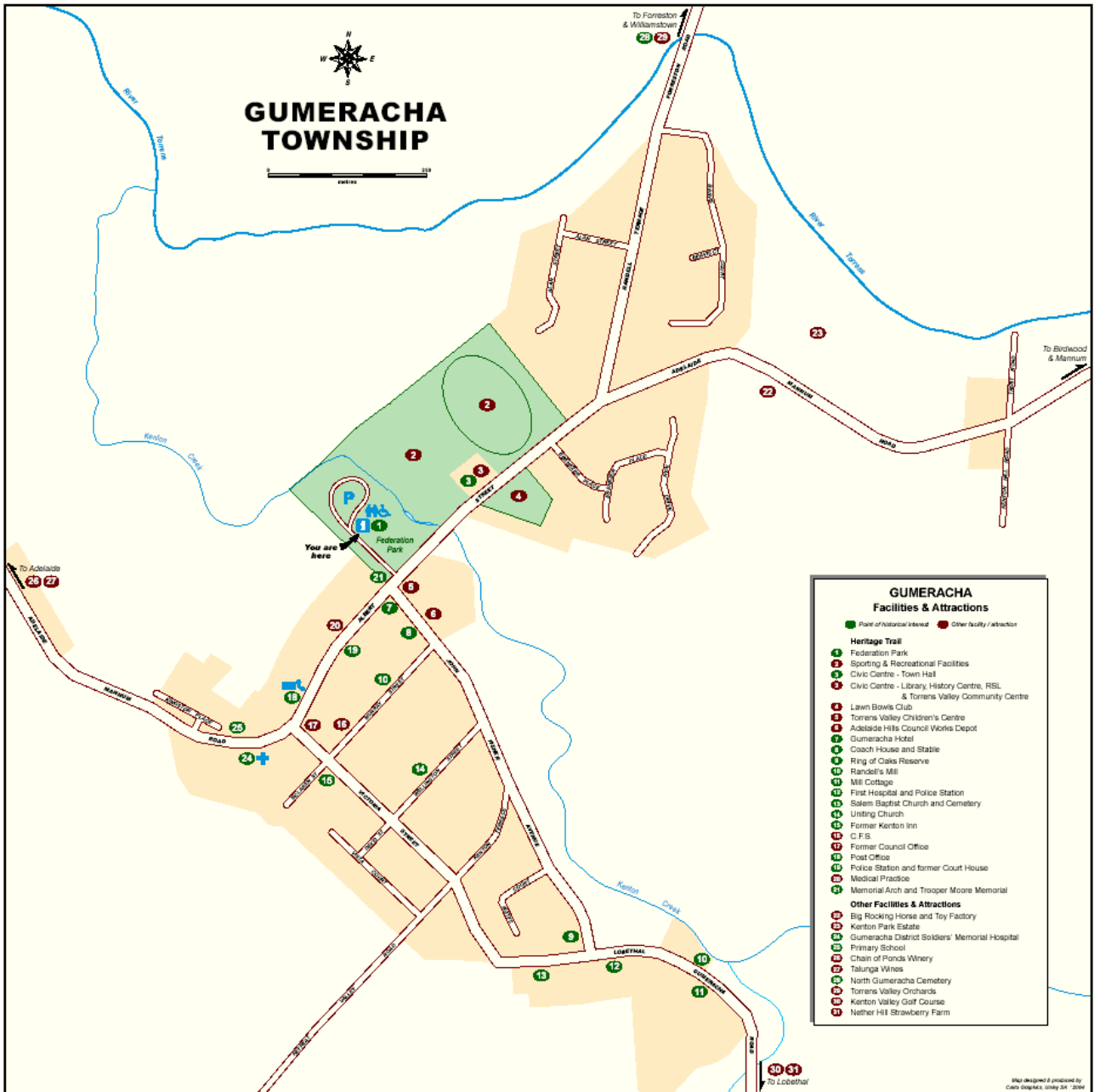
28. North Gumeracha Public Cemetery.

Towards Lobethal:

- Aenon Baptist Chapel, Kenton Valley:
- Hartley Vale Primitive Methodist church, Berry Hill, Kenton Valley:

Towards Adelaide:

- Gumeracha Bridge and Weir



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