

Experience a treasure trove of memories and exhibits from an era past...

The Village captures the development of a typical rural community with over 45 buildings and displays, each telling a unique story of the struggle and heartache of pioneers who dared tame the 'outback'.



LOXTON HISTORICAL VILLAGE

Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 4pm • Phone 08 8584 7194
Allen Hosking Drive, Loxton SA 5333
www.thevillageloxton.com.au

entry 
CAR PARK

Download a QR code scanner from the app store on your smart phone and scan the codes located within The Village to hear the town's stories.

V6, October 2020

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|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1.  Entrance Building | 7. Saddlery Shop | 13.  Cellar | 20.  Garage | 27. Police Cell | 34. Yabby Pond | 41.  Irrigated Block |
| 2.  Pioneer Memorial Chapel | 8.  Blacksmith | 14. Stump Barn | 21.  Institute | 28. Stationary Motors | 35.  Nissen Hut | 42. Sulphur Box |
| 3.  General Store | 9. Implement Shed | 15. Windmill | 22. Dental Display | 29.  Railway Station | 36. Railway Siding | 43. Myrla Phonebox |
| 4.  Bank | 10. Carpenter's Workshop, Nitschke's Shoe Store | 16. Stable | 23. Solicitor's Rooms | 30. Cottage | 37. Lock Cranes | 44. Tractor Shed |
| 5.  Bakery | 11. Thatched Shed | 17.  Shearing Shed | 24.  Clarion Office | 31.  School | 38. Drying Racks | 45. Pump and Motor |
| 6. Barber Shop | 12.  The Settler's Hut | 18. Pump House | 25.  Telephone Exchange | 32. Flag | 39. Pump House | 46.  Flood Tree |
| | | 19.  Fire Station | 26.  F & G Kroeger | 33. Museum Building | 40. Cutting Shed | 47. Transport Shed |

1. Entrance Building

Constructed in 1976 by the Rotary Club of Loxton, this entry building was opened by the then Governor General, Sir John Kerr. Entry tickets, refreshments and souvenirs are available for purchase here.

2. Pioneer Memorial Chapel

This beautiful stone building was constructed in 1971 and the Loxton Ministers Fraternal assisted with the design. It is furnished with items from a number of churches throughout the district. Step inside to experience church as it was in the early years.

3. General Store

This building began life in 1910 as the Alawoona General Store. Like most country stores in the early 1900s, the store owners also operated the Post Office and Post Master General's telephone exchange. The store offered a wide range of merchandise to cater for residents needs; anything from windmill parts to sewing needles were generally available. The building was moved to The Village in 1972.

4. Bank

This building was formerly the Geranium agency for the Lamerod branch of the Bank of Adelaide, and operated from 1909 to 1973. In August 1973, shortly after closing, the building was moved, intact to the Village. It is easy to imagine local farmers outside discussing their yearly crops whilst waiting to enter the bank.

5. Bakery

The bakery, constructed in 1977, is a replica of the original bake house in Loxton. Inside is an original farm oven from an old river homestead.

6. Barber Shop

Constructed in 1977, the barber shop displays hairdressing equipment and memorabilia from across South Australia.

7. Saddlery Shop

This building is a replica of Klingberg's Saddlery Shop which commenced business on East Terrace in 1909. Albert Klingberg of Tanunda rode his bike to Loxton to assess the viability of a saddlery business in the new town of Loxton and consequently established Klingberg's Saddlery and Harness Making shop. As the years progressed and farmers began using tractors instead of horses, the saddlery business declined until eventually closing in 1946. Aspects of saddle making can still be experienced within The Village replica today.

8. Blacksmith

This limestone building contains a comprehensive collection of blacksmithing tools used by local blacksmiths. At blacksmith stores, typical to The Village's example, equipment such as ploughs and stump pullers were made along with alterations and repairs to a range of equipment.

9. Implement Shed

The largest building in The Village, it displays many dry land farming machines and implements commonly used in farming throughout the district. Planes, carriages and wagons are just a few of the items that can be viewed within this shed.

10. Carpenter's Workshop & Nitschkke's Shoe Store.

Constructed of materials from numerous old buildings in Loxton, including the floor of the Loxton Institute, the carpentry shop features a home-made lathe built from tractor and machinery parts.

View the variety of tools used by carpenters before the advent of power tools.

This building also houses a shoe shop display, representing Nitschke's Shoe Store which operated in Loxton from 1929 to 1986. Alf Nitschke was a very experienced surgical boot maker and was widely known for making and selling high quality footwear.

11. Thatched Shed

Straw roofed sheds similar to this construction were commonly used for the housing of machinery, whilst also being an ideal storage solution for hay and stock feed.

12. The Settler's Hut

This building is a prime example of a typical Settler's Hut, commonly occupied during the late 1800s to early 1900s by farmers. Huts like this were constructed of pine slabs and pug, a mixture of sand, clay and straw.

This example was the first building to be constructed within The Village and represents the original hut, which once stood mere metres from where The Village Settler's Hut now stands.

The original hut was once occupied by William Charles Loxton of whom the town is named after.

13. Cellar

The cellar was built using stone from the original Loxton Hospital. Cellars were used to store perishable food items that required cooling before the days of refrigeration.

14. Stump Barn

Stump barns were an ingenious utilisation of Mallee stumps that had been cleared from farms. Stumps were stacked to form walls for sheds and provided inexpensive storage areas.

15. Windmill, Tank and Trough

Artesian bore water was in abundance in the Mallee and the wind provided an economical source of energy for pumping. These structures demonstrated the early settler's effective use of wind and water.

16. Stable

Pine and Mallee uprights from an old stable on a local property were utilised to construct this replica stable. With horse power the dominant transport and farming method, stables were very common constructions in the region during the early 1900s.

17. Shearing Shed

This building is a replica of some of the region's first shearing sheds, and is complete with a wool press, classing table and shearing equipment, including hand shears. This shed is still used for shearing demonstrations on most 'Village Alive Days'. One of the oldest Village exhibits, it is a true symbol of the Aussie way of life.

Before the arrival of rail transport in Loxton, wool bales were transported to Adelaide by paddle steamers, where the wool was sold at auction and sent to buyers from across the world.

18. Pump House

Constructed of pine slabs taken from a house built in 1903, the pump house contains an old Blackstone engine, used to power a pump for pumping water when lack of summer winds stalled the windmills.

19. Fire Station

Contains one of the best exhibits of fire-fighting equipment outside the metropolitan area, and includes three restored implements, one of which is horse-drawn.

At 12noon each day, The Village fire siren is sounded.

20. Garage

In typical 1920s style this garage was designed with the assistance of the Riverland Vintage and Classic Car Club. It is used by the club to maintain and display vintage cars, motorcycles, tools and items associated with the early days of the motor industry.

Inside you can view the working display of a Hudson Terraplane engine.

21. Institute

Country Institutes were the social and meeting hubs of small towns. The original Loxton Institute showed moving pictures, held school concerts, fetes, fairs, dances and balls. Church services were often held in Loxton's original Institute and the town library was for many years located within.

Local artist Jan Wagner painted a mural depicting a paddle steamer scene on the stage backdrop of The Village Institute.

22. Dental Display

Housing a range of old dental equipment, items within this display were generously provided by the South Australian Museum and the South Australian Dental Association.

23. Solicitor's Rooms

This room displays furnishings, books and records of Loxton's first solicitor Ernest Henry Hechler, who commenced his practice in the town during 1912 and continued until his death in 1973. He was a valued contributor to musical and other cultural activities in the town over many years.

24. Clarion Office

Loxton's first newspaper, 'The Clarion' was initially printed and published in 1925. However a victim of the depression, it closed in 1928. Inside view the old printing machines, early newspapers and photographs of the Loxton district.

25. Telephone Exchange

Originally from Paringa, this building contains a switchboard that was used at Moorook from 1935 until 1974.

View the comprehensive display of telephones and equipment used many decades ago, before modern telephone technology, when telephone operators were accused of listening in to conversations and being the source of local gossip!

26. F & G Kroeger

Dedicated to Fredrick (Fritz) Gerhard Kroeger, a well-respected businessman in the town, this exhibit displays phonographs, radios and electrical equipment used in the early to mid 1900s. Fritz commenced business in 1930 selling various electrical goods.

27. Cell

Originally the Alawoona Police Station cell, this lock up was not built for comfort! Step inside and imagine the discomfort of a night within.

28. Stationary Motors

View numerous types of engines that were utilised by our early settlers.

29. Railway Station

The station was transported from Yinkanie (32 kilometres west of Loxton) in 1975 when the station closed.

Beside it stands an old RX55 railway engine which was built in South Australia in 1911 and was moved to The Village in 1972. The railway engine was used to pull freight trains on the Adelaide to Loxton run.

30. Cottage

This cottage is an example of the progression of housing within the region. Cottages such as this replaced the old pine-and-pug huts, and had four main rooms one for entertaining, two bedrooms and a kitchen.

Bathrooms and washhouses were often located outside. Constructed of timber and corrugated iron, its furnishings and fittings are typical of those seen in homes during the early 1900s.

31. School

This small country school building was originally the Bandon School which opened in 1931 and serviced both the Copeville and Alawoona communities. It closed in 1954 due to lack of students.

The School building was dismantled and rebuilt at The Village in 1971 by village volunteers. It is fully furnished with desks, blackboards and other school equipment including the dreaded cane!

32. Flag

The flag which is raised and lowered each day is known as the Lower Murray Flag and originated as far back as 1850.

It is flown on paddle steamers and other river vessels even to this day, in both South Australia and Victoria.

33. Museum Building

This old school building contains various exhibits including hospital equipment, a collection of lamps and photographic equipment.

34. Yabby Dam

This dam which often fills with storm water is similar to dams that would often be filled with yabbies.

35. Nissen Hut

A corrugated iron hut displaying the 'make do' housing used by some of the 250 ex-servicemen in our region who were granted horticultural properties as part of the government's repatriation scheme after WWII. The Hut shows the living conditions of the early 'blockies' and their families. Initially, huts like this did not have domestic water or electricity. Water had to be carted in tanks on block trolleys, pulled by horse or tractor.

36. Railway Siding

This siding from Veitch was originally used for delivering parcels and collecting produce.

37. Lock Cranes

The restored, hand-operated crane and first motorised model were used at Lock 4 during its early operation.

38. Drying Racks

These racks, along with hot and cold dips were used in the drying of fruits, mostly grapes.

39. Pump House

This is typical of the 'block' pump house with water wheel and meter to measure water usage. The 30-metre open channel is an example of the original irrigation methods which are inefficient compared to todays alternatives.

40. Cutting Shed

The corrugated iron cutting shed was a busy, noisy place around Christmas time, when filled with people cutting stone fruit and removing stones by hand. These cutters were often local wives, children and neighbours looking to earn a little extra pocket money.

41. Irrigated Block

Planted with older-variety vines and an assortment of stone fruit trees and citrus, this block is typical to those allocated to ex-servicemen as part of the government's repatriation scheme after WWII. There were 250 'blockies' who settled on properties with their families between 1948 and 1956 in the Loxton Irrigation Area. There was no infrastructure in the early years of irrigating. Trees were hand watered whilst vines were commonly watered using hand dug furrows.

42. Sulphur Box

Sulphur boxes were an important element of the district's dried fruit industry. Stone fruit such as apricots, peaches and pears were cut and de-stoned in the cutting shed and laid on wooden trays before being placed in the sulphur boxes. Sulphur was burnt in a shallow container beneath the trays. This process prevents the fruit from discolouring and losing flavour. The trays of fruit were then laid out in the sun to continue the drying process.

43. Myrla Railway Phone Shed

Originally the Phone Shed at Myrla it was moved to The Village after its closure to demonstrate the importance of communications in years that rail dominated the country.

44. Tractor Shed

This shed houses a collection of tractors and implements dating back to the 1920s. Many of these have been restored by The Village Volunteers and are still operational. Allis-Chalmers, McCormick, Fordson and Vickers are a few of the machinery brands displayed inside.

45. Pump and Motor

The original pump and motor were used at the Loxton Irrigation and Pumping station to pump water to local residents and eventually to stand pipes for irrigating local fruit growing properties.

46. Flood Tree

Originally located on the riverbank upstream from the Loxton boat ramp, this tree displays brass pegs indicating water levels of high rivers experienced between 1931 and 1974. The late Mr Franz (Frank) Hentschke was responsible for inserting the pegs into the tree. The pegs were stamped with the month and year of each flood. Levels shown here are indicative of the water level at its original location, which sat below this site. The true 1956 flood level for this exact location is indicated on the tree with a ring of white paint.

47. Transport Shed

A display of early buggies and carts.