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History in a tranquil setting

When the first steam train passed through Narrogin from Beverley to Albany in 1899, it was a hamlet with few people. However within 30 years, Narrogin was a bustling town with the largest train junction outside of Perth. Over a third of Narrogin's population were directly dependent on railway employment, and many sports had at least one railways team. These days are long gone. Steam locomotives require large amounts of fresh water

Built in 1912, Railway Dam was the third local water source (after the Narrogin Pool, and then a dam, both of which were near the now derelict railway station).

This was solely for railway use, and the town remained critically short of water until a pipeline from the Wellington dam at Collie was constructed in 1954



More information can be found at Dryandra Country Visitor Centre, on the corner of Park and Fairway Streets Narrogin (open seven days) 9881 2064, or on www.foxeslair.org (search "railway dam")

RAILWAY DAM



The **Dam Walk** (white arrows 650 metres) is an easy 15 minute walk around the eastern dam wall amongst shady flooded gums that provides walkers with a lovely view of the dam and water birds.

The best time to visit the dam is the early morning and evening.

Dogs on a leash are permitted.

A wood barbecue can be used but bring your own wood.

The **Archibald Park Walk** (red arrows, 1200 metres) is an easy 40 minute walk.

Archibald park was built as the only jet boat course outside Perth in 1992.

Water was pumped into the course from Railway Dam for an event twice a year.

The sport did not take off, and within a couple of years it was abandoned to become a seasonal wetland

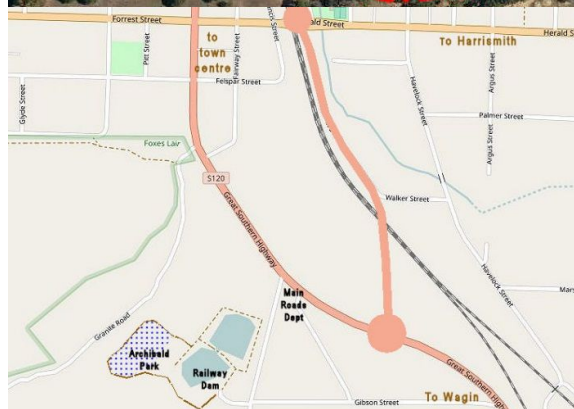
A memorial and associated information commemorates a remarkable time in the 1950's when European immigrants came from displaced persons camps to Australia. In return for free transport, they were required to spend 2 years working for the government. Conditions in the camps established to the south and west of Railway Dam were hard with no running water or sewerage.

Many of these people obtained their own house, and remained in Narrogin to become leading citizens.

TIP FOR SIGHTSEEING

Look for visiting water birds, and piebald tortoises that may swim toward the bridge in the early morning,

RAILWAY DAM

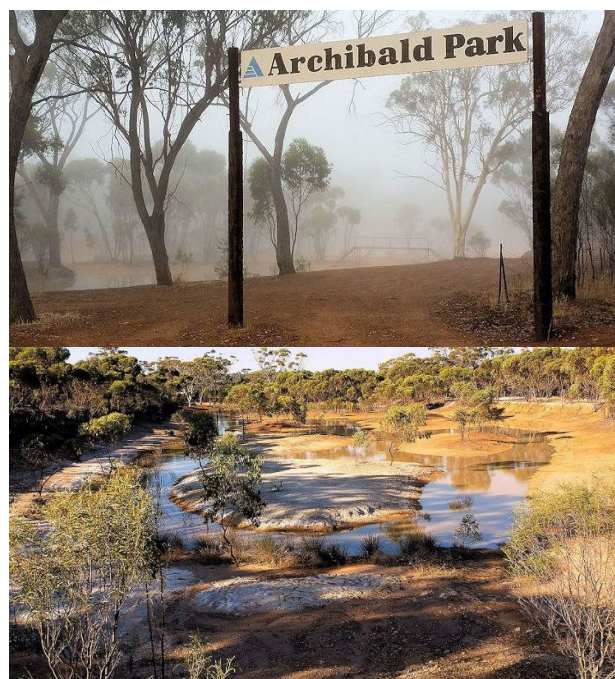


From the town centre drive south down Federal Street until you see the Main Roads Department. Turn right on to Mokine Road, and right again at the Railway Dam sign.

WALK TRAILS/HISTORY BIRDS/PICNIC AREA/WILDLIFE

TIP FOR SIGHTSEEING

Check out the old weir and channels on the Archibald Park walk that were used to keep salty water out of the dam.



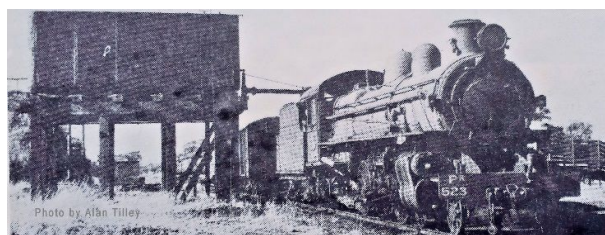
Rising water tables due to widespread land clearing for agriculture caused land and water sources like Railway Dam to become more saline.

To reduce this a spaghetti-like system of drains and weirs was constructed to separate fresh and saline water.

The drains and weirs originally started up near Graham road. The Archibald Park walk shows a weir and a separator that redirected fresh (blue), or saline (purple) water to either the dam or the disposal drain that bypasses the dam. Where they crossed the saline channel went underneath the fresh channel



NARROGIN'S HISTORIC DAM



PANORAMIC VIEW HISTORY PICNIC WALKS
BBQ BIRDS ANIMALS