



RAILWAY DAM

HISTORIC PICNIC SPOT
RV CAMPING

This historic dam is a great spot to have a picnic, take a walk, and enjoy nature. It is also a starting point for the Griffon mountain bike circuit.

RV camping is permitted and there are two gas fired barbecues and picnic tables. An information bay describes the early history of the railway network, and the post-war European immigrants who have made a great contribution to the district.

There are two easy walk trails around the dams.

Dogs on a leash are welcome. Please remove doggie droppings.

When the first steam train passed through Narrogin from Beverley to Albany in 1899 it was a hamlet with very few people. Within 30 years Narrogin had become a bustling town with the largest train junction outside of Perth. Over a third of Narrogin's population were directly dependent on railway employment.



Railway Dam was built in 1912 as a water supply for steam locomotives.

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

To reduce water salinity a spaghetti-like system of drains and weirs constructed to separate fresh and saline water can be seen from the walk trails.



Today the brackish water of the dam supports a thriving population of long-necked turtles, introduced Redfin Perch and Gambusia fish, frogs and ducks, with seasonal visitors such as spoonbills, kingfishers, waterfowl, and herons.

**TIP FOR
SIGHTSEEING**

If you stand on the bridge in the early morning, tortoises and ducks come to visit. Please don't feed them as it pollutes the water?

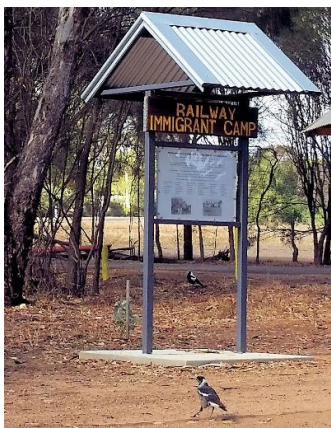
From the town centre, drive south down Federal Street until you see the Main Roads Department. Turn right on to Mokine Road, and right again at the Railway Dam sign.



Walk Trails

The 650 metre *Dam Walk* 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 1200 metre *Archibald Park Trail* is an easy 40-minute walk. Archibald Park was built as the only jet boat course outside Perth in 1992 and is being revived after a long recess. Water was pumped into the course from Railway Dam for an event twice a year.



Post-World War 2 Immigrants

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.

This [blog](#) has more detailed information, including an account of the life and times of the post-World War 2 European immigrants.

