

Trail name

Narbethong

The scenery embraces every object which can charm the eye of a painter of sylvan subjects, while it offers a boundless field of studies for the naturalist ...

JW Lindt, 1904



Black Spur Inn and Narbethong House, c. 1918

Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria

THE BLACK SPUR INN AND NARBETHONG HOUSE WERE POPULAR GUESTHOUSES IN NARBETHONG.



Four women in a car at the Hermitage, May 1913 Photographed by JW Lindt, Courtesy of the National Library of Australia

The town was surveyed in 1865 and the awe-inspiring forests surrounding it soon attracted both timber millers and tourists from Melbourne and surrounds. Guesthouses quickly popped up in the late 19th century. The most famous of these was the Hermitage.



St Fillan's guesthouse, c. 1940-60 Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria

ST FILLAN'S GUESTHOUSE WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT AS A HOLIDAY HOME FOR SIR JAMES MUNRO, A FINANCIER WHO LATER BECAME PREMIER OF VICTORIA IN 1890. HOWEVER, MUNRO BECAME ENTANGLED IN FINANCIAL SCANDALS SOON AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT. DEEPLY IN DEBT AND DISGRACE, MUNRO WAS REPLACED BY ATTORNEY-GENERAL WILLIAM SHIELS IN FEBRUARY 1892.

The town of Narbethong was founded when a hotel was built at the foot of the Black Spur in the 1860s for diggers to rest their weary heads as they travelled to the Wood's Point goldfields.



NARBETHONG'S POST OFFICE OPENED ON 16 OCTOBER 1883 AND CLOSED NEARLY 100 YEARS LATER IN MAY 1993.



Narbethong Post Office, 1901

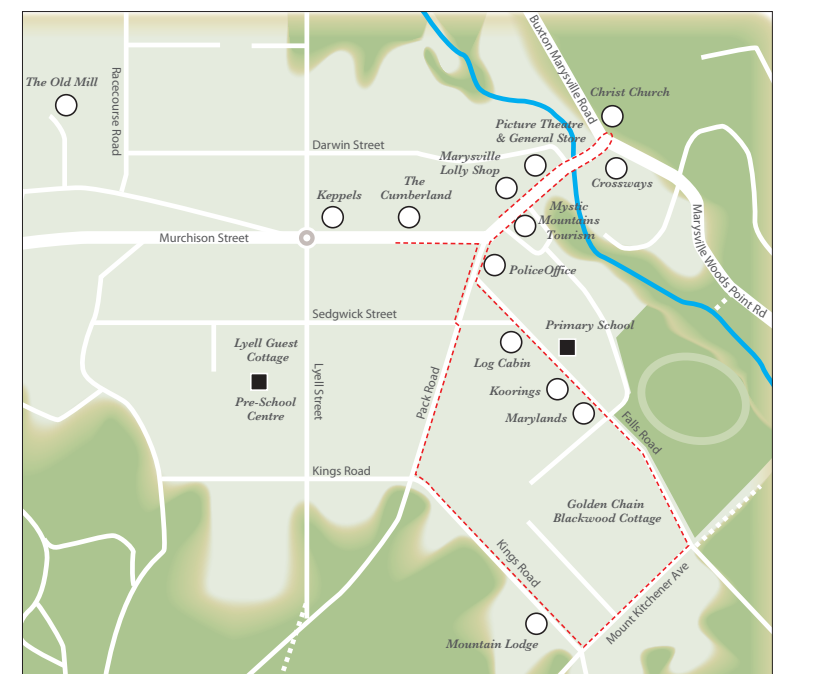
Courtesy of the National Archives of Australia

JW Lindt's Hermitage, Narbethong, c. 1890-1910 Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria

BARON FERDINAND VON MUELLER, CREATOR OF MELBOURNE'S ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS, ALSO DESIGNED THE STUNNING GROUNDS AT THE HERMITAGE.

The Hermitage was built by well-known photographer JW Lindt in 1894 and soon became one of the most renowned guesthouses in Narbethong – at one stage, Dame Nellie Melba was even a guest! Lindt and Nicholas Caire drew many people to the Black Spur region with their exquisite photographs of guesthouses, tree ferns and sun-dappled mountain ranges.

Today, Narbethong continues to be a beautiful gateway to the towns of the mystic mountains.



Generously supported by the fundraising efforts of Methodist Ladies' College, Kew



MLC