

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS
WEDDERBURN AND ENVIRONS

The township is situated 46 miles North-West of Bendigo on the Calder Highway. Mount Korong dominates the surroundings.

All the churches are of interest, but the Anglican Church with its local stone is very attractive indeed.

The house of Samuel Rinder in High Street is reputed to be 100 years old. This house is still in very good condition. There are numerous mud brick cottages in Tantalla and nearby streets. These huts are situated in a very attractive setting of hills and gums. Near these dwellings can be seen the remains of many diggings. The Court House is an excellent old building which has recently been extensively renovated.

Gold is still found in small quantities in the area - as late as 1950 nuggets were found in Wilson Street. The remains of a Chilean Mill crusher can be seen and a model puddler has been erected recently. A Government battery still operates occasionally in Wilson Street - one of the seven remaining batteries in the State. It is a five head battery using a mercury process to extract the gold from the crushed ore. Other reminders of the early gold era are the graves of Catherine Rinder in Wilson Street and the lonely miner's grave. Catherine Rinder died in 1859 and was buried in a cemetery which until recently showed markers where Chinese were also buried. The lonely miner's grave is that of Thomas Whyte, who died in his tent in 1855.

Other places of interest include the Mechanics Institute, Royal Hotel and Commercial Hotel. The Royal Hotel was occupied some years ago by an artist, Mr. Ian Armstrong, whose excellent paintings did much to show the beauty of the area.

A general store based on the year 1910 has been established and includes examples of coachbuilding and a Goldrush Museum.

A crude eucalyptus factory can be seen in operation on occasions within the township.

Skinner's Flat is a permanent forest Reserve with plentiful native flora and fauna. Wychitella Forest Park is a 3,061 acre area of virgin mallee country, in which can be found the rare Lowan, or Mallee Fowl. Other species of wild-life - such as Echidna, Wallaby, Kangaroo, Possums and Marsupial Mice can be observed.

Chinaman's Hill provides an excellent view of the town and surrounding countryside.

Melville's Caves, which feature a large number of granite outcrops, were supposedly a hideout and lookout of the infamous bushranger, Captain Melville.

Gundawarra Park, which includes a boomerang factory, is a local tourist attraction. The Park also features early farm equipment and slab huts.

The Wedderburn Community Craft Group was formed on 6th November, 1974. Their work includes spinning, weaving, Raku pottery, silver-smithing, macrame, leatherwork, enamelling and embroidery.

From Wedderburn many fascinating hamlets going back to the gold rush days can be visited - these hamlets include Kingover, Rheola, McIntyres, Nine Mile and Moliagul. The latter township was the birthplace of Flynn of the Inland and was also the scene of the discovery of the world's largest nugget, the Welcome Stranger, in 1869. The extinct volcano adjacent to the town, Mt. Moliagul, has a cherry orchard growing in its crater. Other towns of interest include Inglewood, Korong Vale and Bridgewater.

Excellent accommodation is provided by the locally owned Wedderburn Motel in High Street. The Motel has a restaurant - "The Goldseeker", which features excellent food and an historical decor. The Wedderburn Hotel (founded 1853) also provides accommodation and has undergone renovation to offer more up-to-date facilities. There is a caravan park set in seven acres of attractive grounds offering all the usual facilities.

The Committee of the Wedderburn Tourist Development Association has instigated a long-term plan for the development of a local area, known as "Hard Hill". It is proposed that the area will resemble the Wedderburn Goldfields of the 1850's era and will include miners' dwellings, horse-operated machinery, eucalyptus plant, a dam, and construction of walks to a Poppet Head.

The Tourist Development Association has held, since 1968, an annual Gold-Dig weekend. The weekend is usually held in March. Thousands of visitors hope to strike it rich in one of the many quartz-strewn areas all round the town. For its efforts during 1974, the Association was awarded the Matthew Flinders Certificate of Distinction for an outstanding contribution to Victorian Tourism.

Every year, since 1970, the Association has entered the Moomba Festival with a Gold-Dig Float. The Float has won the Lord Mayor's Award for the best country entrant on three occasions.