



District Council of  
**ROBE**  
Public Library and  
Visitor Information Centre



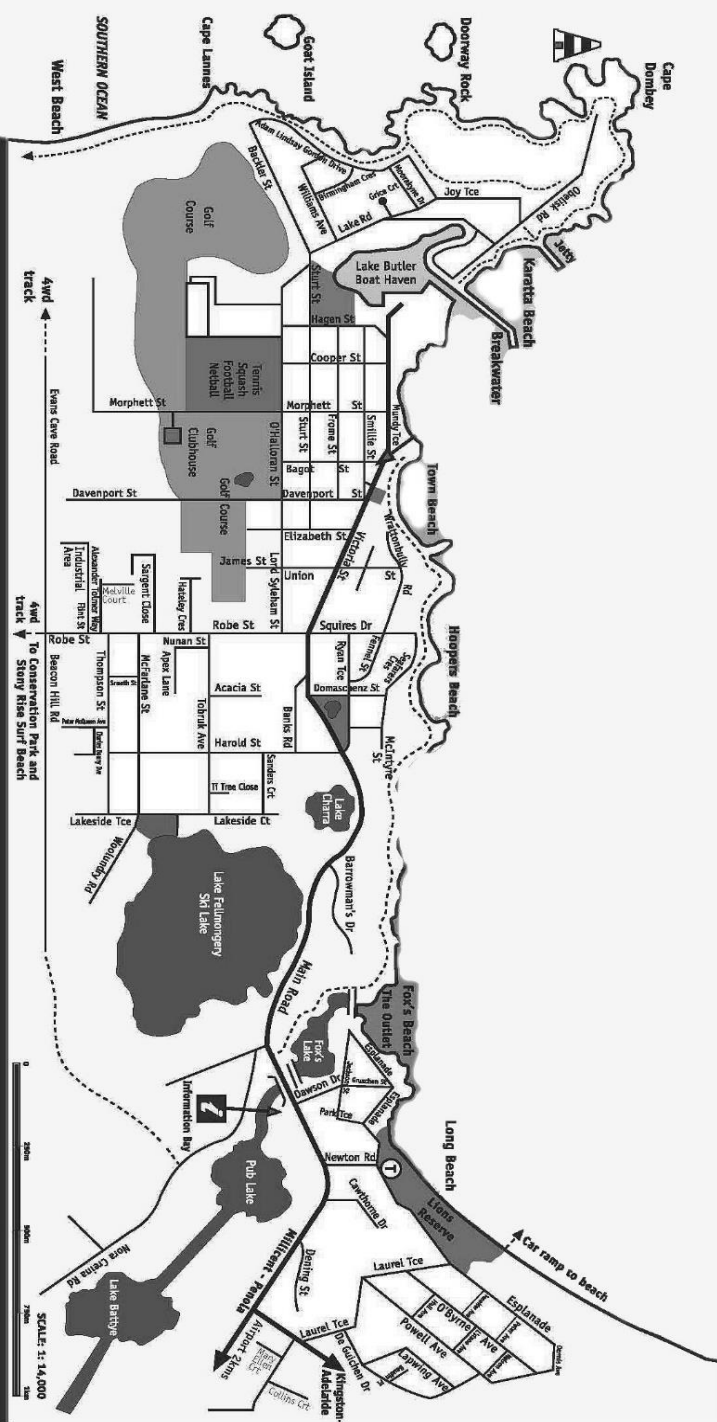
We hope you have enjoyed  
your time in Robe

DISCLAIMER – The information in the publication was current at the time of printing in June 2017. The publisher takes no responsibility for the accuracy of this information and suggests that you check all details when making an inquiry.

Mundy Terrace, Robe SA 5276  
T 1300 367 144 | 08 8768 2465

E [robelibrary@plain.sa.gov.au](mailto:robelibrary@plain.sa.gov.au)  
[www.robe.com.au](http://www.robe.com.au)

**ROBE**  
South Australia



1. **Robe Institute - Smillie Street**: was built in 1868 & during Robe's heyday was the heart & soul of the community as a popular venue for many social occasions, including a Picture Theatre. Additions were built to The Institute in 1983, & you will also find the Historical Interpretation of Robe's early history in the Public Library.
2. **Robe Hotel-Mundy Terrace** has been continuously licensed since it was opened as Robe's first hotel, "The Bonnie Owl" in 1847
3. **Old Telegraph Station-Mundy Terrace** where the first telegram was received in Robe on 20 July 1858 via the South Australian magnetic Telegraph.
4. **Customs House** The **Royal Circus** is a roundabout encircling a small sand hill & was the focal point for the original planned government town of Robe. It was also used by bullock drays throughout Robe's days as a busy port. The Customs House was built in 1863 & used for 25 years as a Customs House & office of Harbour Master & Receiver of Wrecks for the SE coast as far as the Victorian border. It now houses the Maritime Museum.
5. **Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel-Hagan Street** was built in 1858, one of the first 3 Catholic Churches to be built in S.A.
6. **Moorakyne House (Green Gables)-Sturt Street** was built in 1853 by George Ormerod, whose company conducted all of the export trade & most of the import trade during Robe's boom period as a port.
7. **Karatta House-Lake Road** is a magnificent "holiday home" built in 1863 by a wealthy grazier, and used by the then Governor of South Australia Sir James Ferguson as his holiday home from 1869-1873.
8. **Robe House-Hagan Street** was the first substantial stone house in Robe and was built in 1847 as the official residence of the Government Resident in the South East.
9. **Old Police Stables-Smillie Street** where 26 mounted red coats kept their horses during the "Chinese Invasion."
10. **Courthouse-Smillie Street** where the Government Resident was magistrate.
11. **Ormerod Cottages-Smillie Street** were built to house Ormerod's staff in 4 self-contained dwellings. Ormerod Cottages later housed an accountant, private school teacher, doctor, lawyer & the assistant goalkeeper during boom times.
12. **Bank House-Smillie Street** was designed by architect Edmund Wright & built around 1857 possibly by George Ormerod on a speculative basis for later sale to the Bank of South Australia in 1860 for £3,752.
13. **Campbell Cottages-Smillie Street** were first built as a single storied building dwelling for a Scottish apothecary with the upper storey & shop being added when 1/2 the building was leased to the National Bank.
14. **Criterion Hotel (now Cornerstone Cottage & Criterion Cottages)-Smillie Street** was built in the 1850's to service the needs of the upper class & business clientele. Built by George Lord.
15. **George Lord's Horseshoe Forge-Smillie Street** was also built in the 1850s.
16. **Davison's Shop-Smillie Street** was built in 1855.
17. **Greymasts-Smillie Street** was originally built in 1853 by George Ormerod to store wool salvaged from a shipwreck. Greymasts later helped accommodate 80 girls sent to work on pastoral properties from Mosquito Plains to Mt Gambier. Robe's renowned historian Kathleen Bermingham also lived at Greymasts.
18. **Uniting Church-Davenport Street** built in 1869 as the Bible Christian Chapel & operated as Robe's first state school from 1875
19. **School in Rotten Row-Davenport Street** was a private school for girls built in the 1860's.
20. **Granny Bank's Cottage-Sturt Street** built in several stages with the oldest section dating from about 1850. It was first rented to government personnel, then occupied by George Ormerod while Moorakyne was being constructed. Arthur & Sarah (Granny) Banks bought the cottage in 1855 & she lived there until 1900.
21. **St Peter's Anglican Church-Sturt Street** was built 1859 by the local gentry.
22. **Free Presbyterian Kirk-Sturt Street**: Robe's first church & a small and unassuming building built in 1858.
23. **Patsy Ryan's Cottage-Elizabeth Street** was once occupied by one of Robe's identities Patsy Ryan an Irish migrant.
24. **William Savage Cottage-Victoria Street** were constructed by Robe's main stonemason & builder William Savage in the 1850's.
25. **Blind Barlow's Cottage-Union Street** formerly occupied by this poet, basket weaver & "Good Templar".
26. **The Lodge-Victoria Street** was built in 1850 as a Butcher Shop and residence.
27. **Lakeside Manor-Main Road** was built for George Affleck who transformed from a labourer into a "gentleman" on inheriting an English Baronetcy in the late 1880's. His work included washing wool in Lake Fellmongery
28. **Bush Inn-Main Road** This inn was licensed between 1861 & 1871 being one of several roadside inns that served teamsters who bought wool bales into Robe piled high on bullock & horse drays during the busiest years of the port of Robe. This Cobb & Co shop was also licensed as The Newton Arms.
29. **Bermingham's Cottage-Victoria Street** was built after 1858 on an allotment of the new "Village of Syleham".
30. **Attic House-Victoria Street** was built in 1869 as a tailor's shop with a high, distinctive upper storey. W.T. McLean made suits & riding silks for the famous poet & horseman Adam Lindsay Gordon & other gentlemen.
31. **Wilson's Saddlery-Victoria Street** William Wilson handcrafted first-class saddles that were much prized by the horsemen of the district.
32. **Caledonian Inn-Victoria Street** was built in 1859 by a Scotsman Peter McQueen. Several upstairs rooms were fitted with scrolled teak doors salvaged from the shipwreck, "Koenig Wilhelm II".