



The many sports complexes throughout the shire are a sign of the social nature of its people and friendly competition between towns. Golf, hockey, football, swimming, netball, tennis, bowls, basketball and equestrian sports are just some of our recreational pursuits, and visitors are always welcome to join in.

The Shire of Lake Grace is a photographer's dream with its vast skies and horizons. Discover the natural beauty of our distinctive eucalypts (stately Salmon Gums, Kondinin Blackbutts and mallees) and our very colourful salt lakes. Paddocks of wheat and canola form picturesque patterns across the landscape, and the magnificent sunsets and immense night skies are something to experience.

Expect to see and photograph a wonderful array of wildflowers. The best time for viewing is mid August to mid November each year when the sand plains are transformed into a sea of colour. Times of flowering may vary due to rainfall and seasonal conditions. Some of our many species are rare or endangered so please don't pick the wildflowers.

With larger than average nature reserves, you can picnic and walk in bushland heaths of native eucalypts, grevillea and banksia. Granite rock outcrops form a reliable water catchment and have a rugged beauty, with orchids blooming at their base in the spring-time and hardy kunzia and verticordia in crevices on the top. Sit in a quiet spot and take in some bird-watching - rainbow bee-eaters, colourful galahs and honeyeaters are all common.

#### WHAT TO SEE AND DO

for wool and meat. Some farmers have also diversified their businesses to include yabbies (small freshwater crayfish), wine grapes and oil mallees.

#### Accommodation

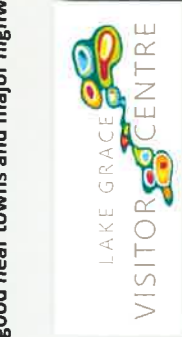
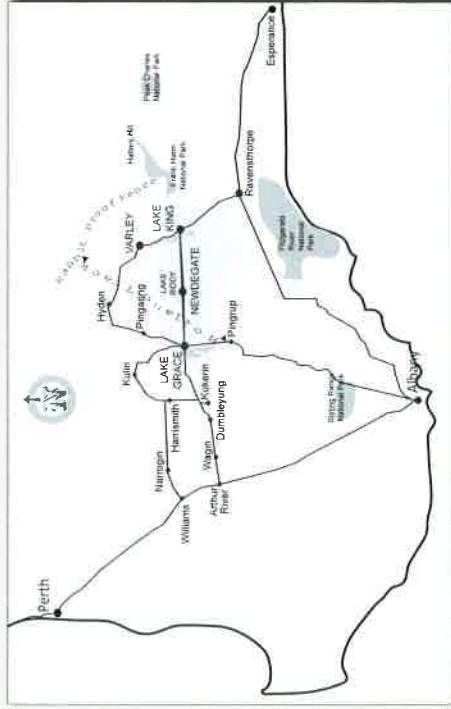
Lake Grace Caravan Park, Mather St  
Tel: (08) 9865 1263  
Lake Grace Hotel Motel, Town Centre  
Tel: (08) 9865 1219  
Lake Grace Saltbush Inn (Motel), Griffiths St  
Tel: (08) 9865 1180  
Mabella B & B, South Rd, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1068  
Liberty Roadhouse (Motel), Stubbs St, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1050  
Tom & Mabels B & B, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9864 9044  
Myriadena Motel & Caravan Park, Newdegate  
Tel: (08) 9871 1685  
Newdegate Hotel, Maley St  
Tel: (08) 9871 1506  
Hollands Track Farm B & B (0488 719032)  
Tel: (08) 9871 9032  
Lake King Tavern, Motel & Caravan Park  
Tel: (08) 9874 4048  
Chicken Ranch (caravan site), Seward St, Varley

#### Meals

Caffé Arjo, Town Centre, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 2489  
Lake Grace Plaza IGA, Town Centre (inc. bakery)  
Tel: (08) 9865 1108  
Rosie's Coffee Shop, Town Centre, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1335  
Liberty Roadhouse, Stubbs St, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1050  
Lake Grace Sportsman's Club (Friday + Saturday)  
Tel: (08) 9865 1239  
Lake Grace Hotel  
Tel: (08) 98651 219  
Newdegate Hotel, Maley St  
Tel: (08) 9871 1506  
Newdegate Roadhouse, Maley St  
Tel: (08) 9871 1570  
Lake King Tavern, Varley Rd  
Tel: (08) 9874 4048

#### Fuel/ Mechanical

BP (Great Southern Fuel) Dewar St, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1221  
Lake Grace Smash Repairs/Windscreens  
Absolon St LG  
Tel: (08) 9865 1133  
Maalouf Ford (RAC), McMahon St, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1261  
Neu- Tech Auto Electrics, Stubbs St, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1164  
Tyrepower, Absolon St, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1023  
SBM Tyres & Mechanical, Stubbs St, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1301  
Liberty Roadhouse, Stubbs St, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1050  
G.A.R.'s Workshop, May Street, Newdegate  
Tel: (08) 9871 1543  
Newdegate Roadhouse, Maley St, Newdegate  
Tel: (08) 9871 1570



Lake Grace Visitor Centre  
Stubbs Street, Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 2140  
lgvisitorscentre@westnet.com.au



Shire of Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9890 2500  
www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au

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**Emergencies - Telephone 000**  
**Mobile telephone range- Telstra Next G coverage is good near towns and major highways.**



# Shire of Lake Grace

LAKE GRACE, NEWDEGATE,  
LAKE KING, VARLEY

## Welcome To The Shire Of Lake Grace

-to our wide open spaces, salt lakes and stars. Enjoy a leisurely stroll down the streets of a country town where everybody says hello. Travel the open road and take your time to see both the natural and farming landscapes or venture off the beaten track to see our wildlife – kangaroos, emus, echidnas, wedge-tail eagles and, if you're lucky, the mallee fowl.

The shire stretches from Tarrin Rock in the west to Hatters Hill in the east, and covers 9245 km2. The most notable features of the shire are the many natural shallow salt lakes - crystal white or beautiful shades of pink, green, tan and mauve. The lakes, rimmed by samphire and tall paperbark shrubs, host a unique range of flora and fauna.

The area has a temperate climate and cool evening breezes in the summertime, so is ideal for travellers. When in the lakes country you will find a range of accommodation, dining and touring options to suit your budget. If you need directions or tour ideas just ask the friendly locals.



gradually built communities and towns throughout the shire.

#### FARMING

The Lake Grace area is a major grain-growing region for wheat, canola, oats, barley, lupins and other legumes. Crops are harvested in early to mid summer and delivered to the many large white 'wheat bins' you will see throughout the shire. Another main agricultural industry is the farming of sheep



Nyoongar people occupied the southwest of WA for at least 40,000 years before European settlement, and significant aboriginal sites within the region include Wave Rock and Lake Dumbleyung. The area was explored in the early 1800's by sandalwood collectors, by John Septimus Roe in 1848, and later by pastoralists looking for arable land.

#### HISTORY

In 1893 John Holland and his partners cut the now famous Holland Track from Broomehill, across the Shire of Lake Grace, through bush to the Goldfields. The team travelled nearly 530 kilometres in 65 days, often through dense scrub, and established a more direct route from the goldfields to the south-west of WA. Hundreds of prospectors and their families trudged overland on this track in their quest for a fortune on the Golden Mile. Their cartwheel ruts can still be seen in uncleared bush near the Lake Grace/Newdegate Road, in the old Lake Biddy townsite and in the Dragon Rocks Reserve.

Lake Grace is a shire created around agriculture and community spirit. Settlers came with few possessions to farm bush blocks with no facilities and little fresh water. Early settlers lived in rough temporary dwellings on isolated farms and

Lake King Agencies (24 Hrs), Town Centre  
Tel: (08) 9874 4015  
Lake King Machinery, Sugg Rd, Lake King  
Tel: (08) 9874 4086

#### Tourist Information

Lake Grace Visitor Centre, Town Centre  
Tel: (08) 9865 2140  
Shire of Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9890 2500  
Lake Grace Lions Park  
Tel: (08) 9871 1791  
Newdegate CRC, Collier/ Mitchell St  
Tel: (08) 9871 1791  
Pioneer Park, Maley/ Mitchell St, Newdegate  
Tel: (08) 9871 1791  
Varley Store, Pitt Street, Varley  
Tel: (08) 9875 1200

#### Rest Areas

Lake Grace Town Hall  
Tel: (08) 9865 1470  
Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9871 1791  
Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9874 4048  
Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9865 1208  
Lake Grace & Districts Medical Centre (Doctor)  
Tel: (08) 9890 2222  
Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9871 1528  
Lake Grace  
Tel: (08) 9875 1030

#### Internet Access

Lake Grace CRC, School Place Absolon St  
Tel: (08) 9865 1470  
Newdegate CRC, Collier/Mitchell St  
Tel: (08) 9871 1791  
Lake King Tavern, Varley Rd  
Tel: (08) 9874 4048

#### Medical

Lake Grace & Districts Medical Centre (Doctor)  
Tel: (08) 9865 1208  
Lake Grace & Districts Health Service (Hospital)  
Tel: (08) 9890 2222  
Newdegate Medical Centre (Wednesday)  
Tel: (08) 9871 1528  
Varley Medical Centre, Thomas St, Varley  
Tel: (08) 9875 1030



## Lake Grace

**LAKE GRACE is an attractive Wheatbelt town with a self-contained community of 650 people. The town is the largest commercial centre of the shire and the council offices are based here. Visit our beautiful swimming pool in the summer months, sample wines at a local vineyard, or stockup on supplies in town.**

Land was first 'selected' by the Lands Department in 1907 and the town was named for the two large interconnected salt lakes 8 kms west of the town. The belts of heavy timber were eagerly sought because of their fertility and the reliable climate for wheat growing. In 1916 the railway line reached Lake Grace, providing a vital link for food and general supplies, and a regular mail service.

Don't miss visiting one of three remaining Australian Inland Mission Hospitals. The Lake Grace Australian Inland Mission Hospital was established in 1926 through the work of Dr John Flynn and the local community. Until the new hospital was built in 1952, the AIM hospital and the Royal Flying Doctor Service served the vast area from Kukerin to Ravensthorpe. Be sure to park at the pull-off bay and meander along the Penny Pathway to the entrance of the AIM. The building, at the west end of town, has been restored as a Hospital Museum. Then take a stroll over to the water feature and colourful Mosaic Garden Gallery near the Medical Centre.

If you are in need of some inspiration have a look at our Historical Mural in the centre of town. The mural features women who in some way were pioneers of the district, from European settlement to the present. Then, if you feel like a walk, follow the story trail around the centre of town and learn about the town's history through a series of footpath pavers.

Panoramic views of our immense lake system can be seen from the Lake Grace Lookout, 12 kms west of town. Lake Grace is 50.5 kms long and up to 7.25 kms wide. It has been estimated that 19 million tonnes of gypsum lie under the salty surface.

Lake Grace Lions Park (at the eastern entry to town) and Apex Park on the western outskirts are both ideal for rest breaks and picnics. There are also a number of small parks within the townsite.

Head out to the White Cliffs, an interesting geological feature and local picnic spot. Located 17 kms south of Lake Grace, the cliffs are a mixture of granite, quartz and soft white kaolin. The cliffs are on private property and can be viewed by appointment.



## Newdegate

**Stay a while in the town of NEWDEGATE which lies at the centre of the shire. Newdegate was settled in 1922 and the railway line was extended from Lake Grace in 1926. By 1928, Newdegate had four general stores, a hotel, baker, saddler, two garages, fruit shop and a town hall. Today the town, though smaller, is a self-sufficient farming community which hosts one of the State's major machinery events.**

Newdegate Machinery Field Days are held every September. Join in a real country fair, going since 1972 - forty hectares of machinery, agricultural goods, regional produce, art and craft displays. Demonstrations include crop information, wool promotions, speed shear events, stud stock displays, food, fashion, carnival rides and stalls.

Catch up with tourism information at the Pioneer Park gazebo in the town centre, or relax in the park gardens with barbecues for public use. While you're in the area, come into the Community Resource Centre to check your email. Head out to Dragons Rocks Reserve for a wonderful experience of the flora and fauna unique to this area.

The Hainsworth Building, which houses the Newdegate Pioneer Museum was originally built as a general store and dining room in 1931/2. The heritage listed building also functioned as a boarding house for railway workers and travellers. Come in to the museum and see a fine collection of photographs, historical objects and musical instruments from times of early settlement. Wander outside to see examples of early agricultural machinery.



The Newdegate Cooperative Bulk Handling 'wheat bin' is the second biggest inland grain receival point in WA. Farmers delivered a record 643,158.32 tonnes of grain to this and other wheat bins throughout the shire during the 1999-2000 harvest.



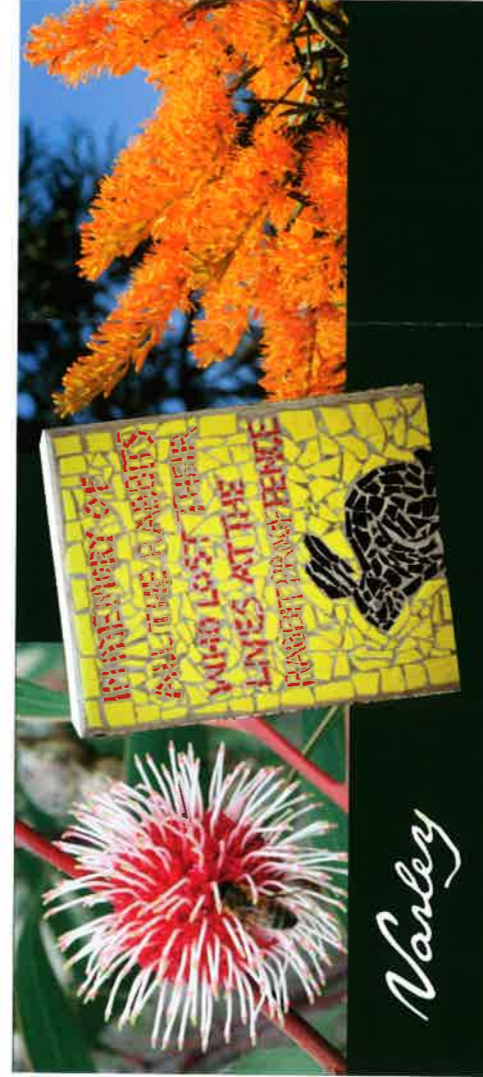
## Lake King

**Travel east along the fascinating LAKE KING Causeway as you cross 10 kms of salt lakes studded with natural scrub and wildflowers. Take time to enjoy the scenery along the longest WA road built across a salt lake.**

The settlement of Lake King, Lake Camm, Varley and Mount Madden during 1928 was to be the start of a vast 34,00 farms scheme that extended to Salmon Gums. The Great Depression saw the British government withdraw from this land settlement scheme and the land was condemned for salinity. However a group of settlers remained and the area is now a productive farming community.

Lake King has a very attractive stone fronted Community Church and a tavern built locally from rammed earth with a motel nearby. Lake King Progress Association has worked to improve the community since 1930 and many of the facilities are created through its initiative. Come along for a great family outing at Lake King Kart Club - you'll need a WAKA licence if you want to join in.

Drive down the Magdhaba Track to Roe Hill Look-out through a conservation reserve of native fauna. The Norseman Road from Lake King to the east passes through the Frank Hann National Park (61,420 hectares) at the eastern end of the shire boundary. Another magnificent tourist attraction on the eastern end of the Norseman Road is Peak Charles, which rises 480 metres above the surroundings.



## Varley

**Pack a picnic and travel a scenic landscape to the town of VARLEY. Get a great view of the surrounding farmland - pale gold in the summer and vivid green in the spring - from the top of Dempster Rock, just west of the town.**

Varley was established in 1939 and now has a population of approximately 200 living within the town and district. The town has a comprehensive museum (Seward Avenue) with fine displays of memorabilia and historic town records. Locals and visitors can play lawn bowls, netball and tennis at the Recreation Centre or chase the white ball around the 18-hole golf course. The well-equipped Medical Centre has regular visits from the Royal Flying Doctor Service from Kalgoorlie, establishing a lifeline for the more isolated communities.

Travel from Varley to Hatters Hill or to the historic Rabbit Proof Fence that skirts the eastern end of the shire. Gold was discovered at Hatters Hill in the early part of the twentieth century. The small settlement (1930-1944) is now uninhabited and an interesting spot for fossickers. Profitable quantities of gold were also mined and processed at Griffin's Find near Lake Grace before its closure in the late 1980s.