Acknowledgement of Country

The district residents of Keyneton and visitors respectfully acknowledge the Peramangk people, the traditional custodians of this land.

European settlement

"Not because of any similarity of this river to that in Germany but because I convinced myself that this valley will once yield a similar quantity and quality of wine as that in Germany as soon as it shall be cultivated." Johann Menge, in naming the Rhine River during geological studies for the South Australia Company, c.1838.

The Rhine River North is in the County of Eyre, proclaimed in 1842 with Crown Land released for leasing of which brothers Joseph and William Keynes took up significant tracts for wool production and sheep breeding naming the enterprise Keyneton.

1850 saw Henry Evans purchase 5 sections (162 ha²) in one of his father-in-law's (George Fife Angas) eastern Special Survey areas and established Evandale developing a wine making enterprise, horticultural nursery and extensive orchards to meet the Colony's demand for fresh fruit.

The thriving industry at Evandale and the employee population it supported saw the general locality interchangeably referred to as Evandale or North Rhine.

The Hundred of North Rhine was proclaimed in 1851 and a portion of the Keynes pastoral lease was surveyed for the township of North Rhine; renamed Keyneton in 1860. This change averted postal confusion with the North Rhine Mine and Keynes renamed his enterprise Keyneton Estate (Keyneton Station since the 1920s).

Founded in agriculture, secure in their faiths, the bi-cultural settlers worked together in communal harmony and created shared history.

Keyneton Heritage Trail

(Map not to scale)

Legend

- Information
- Public Toilet
- Historic Site
- Point of Interest

1. North Rhine St Peter's Lutheran Church

The Congregation of St Petri Kirche at North Rhine, as the North Rhine St Peter's Lutheran Church was known until 1960, is an open and active congregation.

The small building on the southside of the current church is the original church (1857-1866) and school (1857-1892). Many a church picnic has been held in these grounds and the bell in the tower (the deathbed wish of congregation foundation member, August Hoffmann) is said to have rung in jubilation at the armistice declaration of WWI.

2. Fiebiger's Farm (private)

At this junction where the Lavender Federation Trail traverses, in 1871 Heinrich Fiebiger established his farm. Arriving to the Colony of South Australia as a child from Freistadt, Upper Austria in 1847, by 1869 Heinrich was District Clerk of the Flaxman's Valley District Council (11 km west). He also clerked for 9 years from 1873 for the North Rhine DC and remained with this council for another 19 years during which time he clerked for 11 years for the DC of Truro (20 km NE).
A valuable translator at public meetings and a Justice of the Peace, he clerked from a free-standing stone office he built on the farm.

### Graetztown

Settling here in 1854, Rudolph and Eleanore Graetz built a house on a section of land as each of their sons married, all within view of each other.

The NW corner property is owned and farmed by his great-great-grandson where a separate building was once a drapery operated by Heinrich Graetz who hawked wares direct to farmsteads locally and on the Murray Flats.

A front of the Eden Valley Fire of 17 January 2014 was halted here but not before destroying property and surrounds. All houses were thankfully saved.

### Rams Head Corner

Early roads were rough bullock tracks wending around trees through unfenced paddocks. This crossroad linked the North Rhine Mine (to the SE) and travelled Cork's Hill Road through Evandale and on to Angaston until 1859 when the current Keyneton-Angaston road was surveyed.

The cross-road directly linked Keyneton in 1869 when Gottlieb Rothe created a travelling track over Sedan Hill causing a significant curve in the route, and allegedly the locality's nickname (curly as ram horns). The main road was realigned in 1988 making the area fronting the former council chambers public reserve. All properties at this locality are private.

### ‘Old’ Rhine Bridge

This sturdy bridge located via access road 900m east of Ram’s Head Corner on the bend at 1272 Scott Hwy, provided safe passage across the North Rhine River for travellers, mail and goods to and from the Murray Flats for 77 years.

As Keynes land was either side of the river, it was referred to by some as ‘Keynes bridge’ and it was the last of its type in use in SA when superceded in 1988 and an interpretive sign erected to its history.

On-site are remnant dry stone walls built as paddock fencing for Joseph Keynes, c. 1870s.

Renamed The Somme in 1918, the North Rhine River has since had its name reinstated.

### Off-shears sale (former site)

All that remains of the immensely successful Keyneton Off-shears sale held annually on this site from 1934-1964 is the shed. Now used for storage, at the time it was the canteen where pies, pasties, sandwiches and mugs of tea were dispensed to stock owners and onlookers by the Keyneton Red Cross Branch.

Long gone is the auction clerks’ shed and the stockyards that penned sheep for sale to buyers from the Yorke Peninsula, Murray Mallee and the South East of South Australia.

(=Please use vehicle hazard lights if stopping at this location.)
Keynton Station (private)

Joseph & William Keynes, Congregational minister’s sons of Blandford in Dorset, England, emigrated in the employ of George Fife Angas. In exceptional times they took up a pastoral lease from the Crown, of which, Joseph gained eventual freehold with William settling east of Truro.

By 1850 Joseph Keynes had a high reputation as a merino sheep-breeders producing sheep of robust constitution, reag carriage and magnificent fleeces.

The homestead was commenced in 1857 and the shearing shed built in 1879.

The tradition continues under the stewardship of the fifth & sixth Keynes generations.

Blacksmith’s Shop (private)

Overtime from 1870 eleven smithy and wheelwright businesses occupied this workshop. As transport evolved so too entrepreneurship with some wagon and dray builders expanding to coach and buggies, whilst others were agents for agricultural machinery manufacturers of winnowers, chaff cutters, combine harvesters and the like. Repair work to cast iron, plough shears, mowers, hay rakes, stripper parts and other essential agricultural equipment was carried out.

The last smithy, Norm Mertin, a farrier from Eden Valley, conducted minor blacksmithing repairs, ironwork and horseshoeing, (and the services of barber) two days per week from 1930. He ceased business in the early 1940s and the blacksmith’s shop closed becoming a fuel depot of the Keynton Store.

C A Henschke & Co

Johann Christian Henschke migrated in 1841 from Kutschlau, Brandenberg Province, purchasing North Rhine land in 1862 and planting 7 acres of vines for wine for the family as part of a small mixed farm.

Gradually more vines were planted and the 1868 vintage produced excess wine to sell. In time regular orders for claret and hock in barrels or krugs (stone jars) were collected by customers from the steps of the Keynton Store.

The fifth and sixth generations continue the tradition forging worldwide recognition and acclaim for Henschke wine.

Temperance Hotel (private)

When Sarah Evans of Evandale purchased the main town allotments in 1883 she could rightly ensure no place would be erected for the sale of intoxicants on any of her property.

Her Temperance Hotel successfully operated for a number of decades, closing 65 years later.

Keynton Primary School

Pupils transferred to this new school in 1925 from the public Keynton School that had operated since 1918 in the former Lutheran Day School.

Facilities have evolved over the decades since local builder Paul Greataz built the Head Teacher residence in 1928 which is now the school library. Most recently a multi-purpose learning centre opened in 2011.

Congregational Manse (private)

Until 1883 resident Congregational ministers were variously housed in vacant on-farm cottages until Sarah Evans, a devout Christian dedicated to Independent worship, had the manse built.

The Keynton Congregational Church closed in 1971 and so too, the manse. Sold in 1974, it is a private residence.

former Keynton Cricket Oval

With the formation of a cricket club in 1930, Arthur Evans’ field opposite the manse became the home ground. Other competitive and social sports played here with courts laid and a clubhouse built. The cricket pitch remains there still.

Australia Day sports picnics during the Great War for the SA Wounded Soldiers’ Fund, ‘Back to Keynton’ SA Centenary celebrations 1936, and numerous school picnics were all held here.

From 1945 all sport and outdoor civic activities transferred to the Lindsay Evans Memorial Park.
Evandale (private)

Henry & Sarah Evans immigrated from Exeter, Devon in England in 1843 chaperoning Sarah's younger brother, John Howard Angas who was destined to manage his father's colonial business affairs.

Henry chose horticulture over pastoralism and successfully exhibited Evandale wines at the 1862 Great London Exposition and 1867 L'Exposition Universelle in Paris.

Henry Angas Evans (1839-1901) inherited the flourishing Vandale fruit business in 1868. Wine production ceased and the winery buildings converted when he expanded into dried fruit production. The business ceased in 1929.

Independent Chapel

After years without a formal house of worship, Henry & Sarah Evans donated land for the chapel built in 1865. Made splendidly over time with memorial Italianate marble inlays and stained glass windows, it has long ceased being a church and nowadays functions as an alternative venue for public hire.

Keynton Soldiers’ Memorial Hall

Built by the North Rhine Band of Hope and Total Abstinence Society in 1872 for temperance meetings and made available for public hire provided no alcohol was served.

District war memorial since 1920.

Lindsay Evans Memorial Park

In memory of Corporal Lindsay Evans, his parents Percy & Hilda Evans donated the land for a recreation park and public nature reserve in 1945.

In honour of locals who served during WW11, the War Memorial playground was opened in 1950, followed in 1955 with the pavilion.

Nature Reserve

In the Eden Valley Wine Region on the eastern fringe of the Barossa in the council district of Mid Murray

South Australia