Pine Park Reserve holds more than a heritage-listed Council Chambers and Centenary Pine Plantation.

Back in the 1850’s and 60’s this corner of Tea Tree Gully was a busy place. Aboriginal people from the region travelled this way through the Ranges, and Kaurna people held ceremonies near here. Local councillors met at the Council Chambers, the first built in the State. With a pub or two, a Post Office and a General Store, the bullock and horse trains drivers had every reason to stop in. Stray livestock could be retrieved from the Public Pound. However, the main reason why people came here and stopped here was for water, a scarce resource in colonial days even as it is today.

Indigenous Heritage together with European Built and Industrial Heritage

European settlement of Tea Tree Gully began in 1837, but the township took off after 1854 with the construction of the Highercombe Hotel, the blacksmith’s and the Council Chambers in William Haines’ newly laid out town of ‘Stevenson’. The name didn’t stick, but many of these buildings, seen in this pre-1880 photo above, are still visible from the picnic area of the park today.

Colonial quarry and waterworks providing resources to the district as well as the state.

One of Tea Tree Gully’s earliest quarries started here in the 1850’s. Tea Tree Gully stone was considered to be the best building material and was used for the Adelaide Town Hall, Adelaide Post Office and the Supreme Court, as well as for the facings of many other prominent and local buildings. Access to water was a common issue in the colonial days and people travelled for miles to get water from the springs here. The springs were declared a Government Water Reserve in 1865 after a local dispute over who owned them. In 1880 the first Government waterworks undertaken outside Adelaide began, ending in 1882 with a spring-fed well feeding into underground tanks at the base of the quarry. The tanks provided homes in both Tea Tree Gully and Modbury with an ever-decreasing amount of piped water until the Millbrook Reservoir opened in 1926.

Kaurna people lived in an area that extended as far north as Crystal Brook, down to Cape Jervis in the south, west to the ocean where the Kaurna stayed in winter, and east to the hills where they stayed in summer. Springs such as this one, and waterholes provided water in the dry summers, Aboriginal people removed bark from trees to create canoes, containers, shields and shelters. Scarred trees provide Aboriginal people today with an important link to their culture and their past. All Aboriginal cultural places are protected by law in South Australia.
What’s in Pine Park Reserve?

Pine Park Reserve hosts an Indigenous scarred tree, the State Heritage Listed Highcorome Council Chambers, the gully that gave Tea Tree Gully its name, Local Heritage listed Pine Plantation which the reserve is named for and which was planted in 1937 to celebrate a centenary of European settlement in the district, as well as a colonial quarry and waterworks.

The Park is part of one of the best preserved historic precincts in Adelaide.

How do you get there?

Pine Park Reserve is on the corner of Haines and Main North East Roads, Tea Tree Gully. It is accessible by the Adelaide Metro 542 Bus, Bus stop 54 is only 10mins from the Adelaide Metro Tea Tree Plaza Interchange and Westfield Tea Tree Plaza Shopping Centre, and the O-Bahn to Adelaide CBD.

What can you do there?

Why not round off a trip on the O-Bahn to Westfield Tea Tree Plaza with an afternoon at Pine Park Reserve and the Historic Township of Tea Tree Gully? There are cafes, restaurants, pubs, Newman’s Nursery and the local History Museum very close to the Reserve. A number of local walking trails around the township or Anstey Hill Park start nearby.

For more information contact The City of Tea Tree Gully Council: Telephone (08) 8397 7444