

Come and enjoy a temperate Mediterranean climate with beautiful sunny winter days and cool summer nights. Explore ancient mountain ranges, rocky hills, rugged river valleys, vast sand plains, estuaries and large inlets. Unwind in the relaxed pace of Ravensthorpe, Munglinup and Hopetoun.

Ravensthorpe town is situated 536km south-east of Perth, 293km east of Albany and 186km west of Esperance. Highway No 1 runs through the middle of the Ravensthorpe District and the main street of Ravensthorpe. Hopetoun is 49km to the south, on the coast.

Ravensthorpe is the seat of local government for the Shire of Ravensthorpe. The shire is 12,872 square kilometres: it has a growing population of 2500 people, made up of Ravensthorpe, Hopetoun and Munglinup residents, and more in holiday seasons. The population is increasing due to mining operations in the area.

Approximately two-thirds of the Ravensthorpe Shire is natural bushland, made up of two national parks, the Ravensthorpe Range, reserves and vacant crown land, all of which are rich in geology, native flora and fauna, including many rare species. The coastal scenery is spectacular, with grand headlands and pristine beaches unique to the south-east of Western Australia. Ancient mountain ranges, rocky hills, rugged river valleys, estuaries and large inlets provide the area with a wealth of natural beauty.

The coastal town of Hopetoun has for many years served as a retirement village and holiday destination for Goldfields people but since the inception of the Fitzgerald River National Park and Nickel operations, improved town services and amenities and the greater movement of people, it is developing tourist destination.

The annual rainfall at Hopetoun is 502mm, Ravensthorpe 422mm, decreasing to 300mm in the north of the district. The average temperatures in Ravensthorpe for January are max 29.3°C and min 13.9°C and for July are max 16.2°C and min 6.8°C. In Hopetoun the January max is 27.7°C and the minimum 15.5°C and for July the max is 18.3°C and the min 7.8°C.

### History

The Wudjari Indigenous people once roamed the area and reminders of their presence remain in the nomenclature of landmarks, stone scatters, middens, artefacts and a scant recorded history. Following the retaliatory spearing of settler John Dunn in 1880, many Wudjari were massacred while many others fled the area. The last full blood Aborigine of the area, Geordie, died in 1944.

The introduction of white man began in the early 17th century with navigators along the coast. This was followed by sealing and whaling. Matthew Flinders in 1802 charted the coast. Land explorers, commencing with Edward John Eyre in 1841, and surveyors, commencing with John Septimus Roe in 1848, opened up the hinterland. Permanent settlement took place in 1868 when the Dunn brothers took up land at Cocanarup on the Phillips River and established a sheep station.

Before the end of the 19th century gold fever reached the Ravensthorpe Range and a fascinating short-lived mining boom took place. Poppet heads, smelters and canvas settlements dotted the landscape; a jetty was built at Hopetoun and a railway connected the two towns in 1909.

In 1900 the Phillips River Goldfield was declared and Alfred Canning surveyed Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun. Ravensthorpe was named after the range (Ravensthorpe, England was the birthplace of Bishop Short) and Hopetoun after Australia's first governor general. By 1911 mining reached its peak and then declined rapidly.

Due to a mining slump, two world wars, the Great Depression and a rabbit plague, the farming population dropped away to 12 families still operating on their farms. Agriculture boomed in the 1950s when 325 new land blocks were released; farming and mining, despite recessions, have stabilised the district since.

Ravensthorpe Museum is well stocked with collections of local memorabilia like mining, hospital, bakery, farming implements and has many early photographs. Dance Cottage, on the premises, is the oldest remaining home in Ravensthorpe.

Books for sale and numerous free brochures, giving specific details on the area can be obtained from the Visitor Centre.

#### ANNUAL EVENTS

**Hopetoun Summer Festival** is in the middle two weeks of January. The program varies each year always featuring fun events and workshops for all ages.

**Hopetoun Fishing Competition** is held during the Easter weekend.

Munglinup Camp Draft is held at the Munglinup Equestrian Centre on Easter Saturday and Sunday.

Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show is held for two weeks mid-September; some years more than 700 labelled different species are on display, Devonshire Teas & Art Exhibition open daily.

Ravensthorpe - Ravy Rat Run Motorcycle Enduro held in September or October. www.ravyenduro.com.au

Ravensthorpe Regional Arts Council - events throughout the year, well worth checking out dates. www.raveaboutarts.org.au





#### RAVENSTHORPE

Ravensthorpe town is encircled by the Ravensthorpe Range amid stately Salmon Gums. The range has seemingly endless unspoiled bush and a diversity of plants, many unique to the range.

It is the centre of the Phillips River Goldfield and has a wealth of mining history. More than 90 gold and copper mines have operated at one time or another in the range since the 1890s. However, there is only minor gold activity now but great prospects in nickel,cobalt, spodumene, pegmatite silver and gold.

Approximately one-third of the Ravensthorpe Shire is productive farmland sustaining an economy by primary production of wheat, oats, barley, lupins, canola, field peas, beans, wool, cattle, sheep (including prime lamb) and to a lesser extent honey, goats, fish, aquaculture (vabbies) and wildflowers.

## Ravensthorpe Range

The rugged range stretches for about 45 km from north of the town in an easterly and then southerly direction to Kundip. It has an abundance of plants, wildflowers, scenic spots, and lookouts and, in parts, mining history. The circular rangetop drive is accessible by 4WD only. Beware of abandoned mine shafts. Lookouts at Mt Desmond on Ethel Daw Drive and Archer Drive are accessible by 2WD, brochures available.

## Railway heritage walk trail

The old Hopetoun - Ravensthorpe railway line (1909-1935) has well-defined and developed sections for bushwalks ,the 54km walk trail is in four main sections with multiple accesses and exits. The wilderness experience offers a variety of wildflower-spotting opportunities and scenery, through the Ravensthorpe Range with rest areas, picnic and toilet facilities and information bays showing maps.

There are illustrated plaques en route of wildflowers, fauna and historic sites, brochures with maps and directions are available from visitor centre.

#### FRANK HANN NATIONAL PARK

The contrasting 60,000 hectare Frank Hann National Park (not shown on map), lies inland 100 km by road north of Ravensthorpe town, to the east of Lake King. It has very good moorland, heathland and scrubland flora especially in spring. It is suitable for hiking. There are no camping facilities, phone 9838 1967.

#### Gems & minerals

The Ravensthorpe area has an amazing variety of mineralised rocks, either for the curious or the serious fossicker to explore. A display of 72 minerals found in the area can be seen at the Ravensthorpe Visitors Centre plus a display of Spodumene, mined by Galaxy. Please check before fossicking to avoid trespassing. Gold, copper, silver, magnesite and nickel have been exported from the area together with smaller amounts of other minerals. Minerals from large-scale nickel and cobalt mines at Bandalup Hill.

# Wildflowers & plant diversity

The region is reputed to have more plants for its size than any other similarly sized area in the world, apart from remote tropical rainforests. Many of them are endemic and, as yet, not all are documented. There are flowers in evidence all year round but spring is best.

Although reaching inland just more than 150 km from the coast, the area embraces many different landforms. These range from ancient mountain ranges to rocky hills, vast sand plains and rich red soils, providing a variation of rocks and soil nutrients to promote such a wide variety of plants.

## **HOPETOUN**

This picturesque and pleasant waterfront holiday destination on the shores of beautiful Mary Ann Haven was once the port for the Phillips River Goldfield. Previously it had served sealers, whaling ships and early settlers. From the present breakwater, which replaced the old jetty, recreational boaties and fishermen launch their boats. Hopetoun has endless unspoiled beaches and is close to the entrance of the Fitzgerald River National Park.

#### **Beaches**

Hopetoun's white beaches on the shores of the town follow on from the main street, providing easy access for bathing, boat launching, windsurfing, reef fishing and beach activities. West Beach is only a few steps from the caravan park. To the east and west of Hopetoun, interspersed with rocky headlands, are 200km of some of the most magnificent and accessible white sandy beaches in Australia.

West of Hopetoun, Hamersley Drive and its many good 2WD spur roads give easy road access to 25km of pristine beaches. Within the national park, Barrens, Mylies and West beaches are enclosed by rocky headlands. Cave Point makes a fine lookout for whale watching during the season.

Geologists frequently visit here because the rocks give important clues about events in the time when Australia was joined to Antarctica; what is now Casey Base was once close to what is now Hopetoun.

The 2WD coastal road ends with the beautiful Hamersley Inlet and its fine beach, but 4WD vehicles can go further along Telegraph Track to the jewel of a beach at Quoin Head, set between twin narrow headlands. Beyond that the coastal footpath to Point Charles and Point Ann is for experienced bushwalkers equipped to camp

equipped to camp overnight. Please contact the ranger for details. East of Hopetoun, the beaches are remarkably accessible by gravel roads. The Southern Ocean Road skirts the shoreline and has several coastal lookouts and access points to beaches, many of which have long limestone shelves and quiet pools for fishing and bathing. It continues to beautiful Mason Point and Mason Bay with its fine beachfront campsite, then to Starvation Boat Harbour. It has a fine headland, campsites and sheltered boat launching.

Continuing east along Springdale Road past Lake Shaster is access to the beautiful

Munglinup Beach with headlands, a reef, campsites and the Oldfield River Estuary.







### FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

Fitzgerald River National Park is one of the larger national parks in Western Australia. It has 330,000 hectares of unspoiled wilderness located on one of the most magnificent stretches of Australian coast. It is one of the largest and most botanically significant national parks in Australia, with approximately 15 per cent of the State's described plant species.

The park protects magnificent scenery and is one of the most flora-rich conservation areas in WA. So far, 1883 plant species have been identified, 75 of which are found nowhere else. More species of animals live in this national park than in any other reserve in South Western Australia. They include 22 mammal species, 41 reptile species and 12 frogs. The park has more than 200 bird species, including rare species such as the ground parrot, western whipbird and the western bristlebird. There are wallabies, kangaroos, brushtail and honey possums.

Much of the rugged scenery of mountains, river valleys and coastline with pristine beaches is easily accessible by 2WD while 4WD tracks are sign posted. The central wilderness area is accessible by foot only. Some roads are closed in wet weather. Check with the rangers: (08) 9838 3060 or (08) 9835 5043. Main entrances to the park are by Hamersley Drive, near Hopetoun, and West River Road on the South Coast Highway.

The Fitzgerald River National Park is an internationally recognised Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Biosphere programme (1978). The aim of this global programme is to discover and demonstrate how people and nature flourish together in a sustainable manner. Camping sites within the Fitzgerald River National Park are marked on the map.

## Fishing

Scope for fishing on-and off-shore, as well as diving on the reefs, is extensive, with many varieties of fish such as shark, tuna, nannygai, queen snapper, herring, reef fish, plus snook (pike) and salmon in season. Small boats fish for bream in the inlets. There are ramps and a boat launching jetty at

Hopetoun. The town's annual fishing competition is held during the Easter weekend.

#### Wildlife and walks

An abundance of birds of varying species, both rare and common and too many to mention, abound on the open sea, shorelines, on and around the inlets, estuaries, swamps, river valleys, sand plains, mallee scrub, woodlands and open sky. Primarily, their habitat is where they find food and most places are easily accessible for bird watching by 2WD. Migrating whales can be easily seen during June to October from many vantage points from along the coast.

Several footpaths are defined in the Fitzgerald River National Park along the beaches, at Sepulcralis Hill, No Tree Hill and East Mt Barren. Bushwalks are available in unlimited numbers according to the likes and abilities of bushwalkers. The coastal footpath from Hamersley Inlet to Point Charles is for experienced bushwalkers equipped to camp overnight. Please contact the ranger for details. The old Hopetoun - Ravensthorpe railway line has developed sections for bushwalks. Everlasting memories of scenery, plants, wildflowers, wildlife, bushwalks and history will come easily to the most amateur of photographers because the subjects are so beautiful and unpolluted.

#### Self drive

Several local self-drive scenic routes, well documented with maps, distances and time taken are available at the Ravensthorpe Visitor Centre and outlets in Hopetoun. There are many good lookouts with splendid vistas and panoramas in the mountains, ranges and high points, which are easily accessible by 2WD. These include Beacon Hill, Mt Desmond, Archer Drive, and Hamersley Drive at many points including East Mt Barren and Sepulcralis Hill.

# 08 if calling from outside Western Australia **Emergency numbers and local services**

VISITOR CENTRE & MUSEUM

Precede phone numbers with

86 Morgans Street Ravensthorpe WA

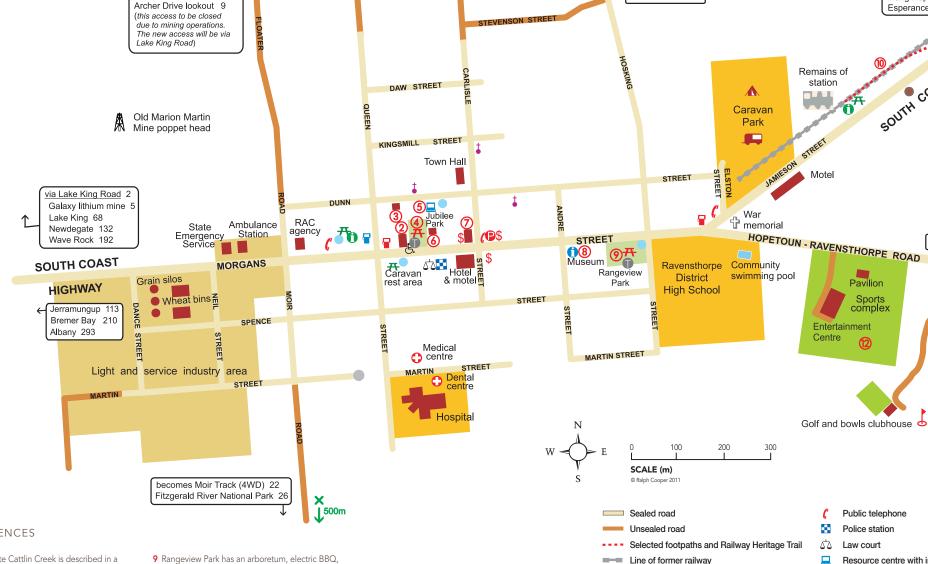
Telephone/Fax: (08) 9838 1277

Email: visit@fitzgeraldcoast.com.au

PO Box 222 Ravensthorpe WA 6346

Emergency	<b>Contacts</b>
-----------	-----------------

Emergency come	acts		
Police Ravensthor Police Hopetoun .	peorpe		9838 1004 9838 3724
	oun AM sthorpe PM		
Sea Search & Reso RAC & Tow Truck Veterinary Hospita Veterinary Swans S	Serviceal Esperance	131 111	9838 3207 0428 381 146 9071 2259
Ravensthorpe Ad	commodation		
Palace Motel/Hot Ravensthorpe Car	el avan Park & Chalets tel		9838 1050
Hopetoun Accon	nmodation		
Hopetoun Motel &	& Chalet Village n Park & Chalets		9838 3096
West Beach B&B . The Manor B&B	/Park Homes & Carav		9838 3182 9838 3328
	ooat Hire		
Munglinup Accor	mmodation		
	Eco Park & Chalets		9075 1155
Transport			
Skywest Flights Transwa Coach Se	ire/Ravensthorpe Med		1300 660 088 1300 662 205
	Agent - See Commu		
Transwa Bus Depo	ot/BP Ravensthorpe		9838 1024
Community Reso	ource Centre & Inter	net	
Hopetoun			9838 3062 9838 1340
Banking			
Post Office Raven	sthorpe/Meridian Ag	encies	9838 1276
Post Office Hopet	oun/General Store		9838 3052
Westpac/Ravenst	horpe Shire		9838 1001
Department Of E	Environment & Cons	ervation	
			9838 1967
	·		



#### MAP REFERENCES

- 1 Mining heritage site Cattlin Creek is described in a leaflet available at visitor information centres.
- 2 Community Centre.
- 3 Fire & Rescue Station.
- 4 Jubilee Park has a playground, BBQ, toilets and
- 5 Community Resource Centre (telecentre) with public library and internet access.
- 6 Senior Citizens Centre
- 7 Ravensthorpe Shire Office.
- 8 Visitor Information Centre and Museum.

9 Rangeview Park has an arboretum, electric BBQ, toilets and water.

Enduro club 3

- 10 The Ravensthorpe Hopetoun Railway Heritage Trail closely follows the line of the former mineral and passenger railway (1909-1935). Brochures are available at visitor information centres.
- 11 Eremia Camel Farm welcomes visitors by appointment to see the camels and other animals, and is a base for camel treks. It also provides dog kennels and a cattery. Phone 9838 1092.
- 12 The sports complex includes Ravensthorpe Entertainment Centre and facilities for football, hockey, cricket, tennis, basketball and netball. Golf, bowls and the gun club are nearby.

- Public telephone
- Police station
- Law court
- Resource centre with internet & library

Munglinup 80

Esperance 185

Hopetoun 49

Gun club

Camel

200 m

180 m ->

farm ->

- Bank, bank agency or ATM
- Church
- Caravan park
- Camping
- Picnic area
- Picnic area with barbecue
- Golf course
- Boat launching ramp
- Public water tap RV waste point

- LPG
- Post office

Visitor information centres

Public toilet with showers

Unleaded, premium, diesel

National Park road access notice

Visitor information bay

Medical centre

Disabled toilet

Public toilet

Old Cattlin Mine 1





- 1 MOUNT MADDEN Drive to the base of the granite rock and walk 20 min to the summit. Good views, picnic spot, historic plaque.
- 2 MOUNT SHORT The highest point of the Ravensthorpe Range. Summit reached by 1 km walk up rough path from the gravel pit on Mt Short Road. Good flora. Good views to the east and north from the path.
- 3 ARCHER DRIVE LOOKOUT Follow the signs out of Ravensthorpe towards Lake King. Turn right onto Old Newdegate Road and follow to Archer Drive. The lookout is a car park high on the fine wooded ridge of the Ravensthorpe Range, with sweeping views from NW to SE. Many rare plants. Mineral-rich greenstone rock. Beware of old mineshafts.
- 4 JOHN DUNN'S GRAVE John Dunn (1848-1880), the first white settler in the area in 1868, was speared to death by natives. Near a permanent fresh water spring in the Phillips River, 4WD advised in wet weather.
- 5 WA TIME MERIDIAN (120° E) is marked in this roadside rest area with a plaque on a blue granite boulder. It crosses the coast at the East Mylies Beach car park.
- 6 GALAXY LITHIUM MINE Spodumene is concentrated on site and exported to Shanghai where a Galaxy factory produces ultra-pure lithium carbonate for high grade batteries. Mica and tantalum are mining by-products.
- 7 SMELTER RUINS Shady roadside rest area below a spoil heap with the remains of No.2 Government Smelter and a branch line from the railway. Copper, gold and silver were smelted here 1906-1918.
- 8 HOPETOUN-RAVENSTHORPE RAILWAY HERITAGE TRAILS Four sections of this former mineral and passenger railway (1909-1935) have been converted to informative bush walk trails, shown in red. The three northern sections are linked. Detailed descriptions and trail maps are in the nearby information bays and in brochures available at local visitor information centres. Only traces of the railway remain, including station foundations in Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe and a few sleepers and small bridges. Its southern terminal was a long wooden jetty, now removed, just west of Hopetoun groyne.
- 9 MOUNT DESMOND The southern summit of the Ravensthorpe Range. The ridges are formed from varied near-vertical mineral-rich beds, collectively called greenstone. Ethel Daw Drive (off Elverdton Road) leads to the summit car park with a 360-degree viewing platform. Beware of old open mine shafts in the area, many obscured under bush.
- **10 KUNDIP & DESMOND** Once flourishing gold and copper mining towns. Some traces remain.

- 11 KUNDIP & TRILOGY MINES (Phillips River Mining)
  Under development for gold, silver, copper and kaolin.
- 12 FQM AUSTRALIA NICKEL MINE The local laterite surface rock on Bandalup Hill has accumulated large nickel and cobalt deposits from the underlying ancient rocks. The large mining area has an ore extraction plant with a seawater pipeline and private access roads. It has now been redeveloped by Canadian firm First Quantum Minerals.
- **13 NO. 1 RABBIT PROOF FENCE** Runs from Starvation Bay to Eighty Mile Beach in the north west of WA.
- 14 FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK A 330,000 ha wilderness with long views of coastal and mountain scenery and a wealth of wildflowers. The mountains shown are all capped with resistant quartzite making rugged summits. The central high Thumb Peak / Mid Mount Barren group is closed to walkers and all tracks shown as footpaths are closed to vehicles. Hamersley River runs in a fine remote valley with pale spongolite cliffs in the centre section. Quoin Head and its beach is a beautiful spot with rough 4-WD access. The long distance footpaths shown are not well marked or mapped and advice should be sought from a ranger (see note in box at bottom left on map). General park regulations are posted at the two entrances on Hamersley Drive. Park entry fees are collected here and fees are charged for camping.
- 15 HAMERSLEY DRIVE Spectacular for coastal and mountain views and wildflowers. Surface sealing of the southern roads between the Park boundary and Hamersley Inlet is not expected to be completed until 2013 and meanwhile there will be scheduled closures; ring 13 11 38 or 9838 3060 for updated information. The four lookouts shown (all with car parking) are, from SE to NW:
- on the high East Mount Barren terrace above the sea and overlooking Culham Inlet
- just west of East Barren, overlooking the sweep of Mylies Beach to Cave Point and the central mountains
- Sepulcralis Hill, with unique weeping gums and fine mountain views east and west
- near the information bay to the NW, with long views south to the coast
- 16 HAMERSLEY INLET A lovely narrow fiord with bream and mullet when not too salty. Small boat launching and two campsites are on the east shore, one with BBQ and small boat launching. A path from here to Hamersley Beach is planned.
- 17 EAST MOUNT BARREN A spectacular rugged mountain with a rocky but well-marked footpath up the west ridge, through white quartzite rocks and rare plants. Exciting rocky summit with tremendous views of the National Park and coastline.

- 18 NO TREE HILL The most easterly summit of the Barrens ranges, is reached by a 3 km footpath, leading through wild flowers and weeping gums from a high car park on John Forrest Road. The summit gives views in all directions, with the Eyre Range spectacular across the Phillips River valley.
- 19 PHILLIPS RIVER ESTUARY Stretches 7 km from Culham Inlet to the loop of Pichi Richi, winding through fine coloured cliffs. There are paths and 4WD access at Echo Pool and Pichi Richi. Boats are launched from the gravelled Phillips River Road, which also has a lookout over the river and rocks for a fishing.
- 20 CULHAM INLET A broad open lagoon which broke out through its sandbar in the great floods of 1993 and 2000, but is now bridged by Hamersley Drive with a permanent road embankment. When not too dry and salty it has good bream fishing and abundant water birds.
- 21 BEACON HILL LOOKOUT Also called Table Hill, with beacon for guiding boats through the reefs into Mary Ann Haven. It has a short gravel road to the summit with views of Hopetoun and the coastline and mountains. To the west are two wind power generators.
- 22 DUNN'S LAKE AND COTTAGE The lake, for some reason sign posted 'Dunn's Swamp', is a tranquil spot for a picnic. The ruined cottage, near its west bank at the northern end of the Hopetoun railway heritage trail, was built by the pioneer Dunn Brothers and is the oldest house in the Hopetoun district.
- 23 SOUTHERN OCEAN ROAD Runs close to the shore, with several 2WD and 4WD access points for the long beaches, and some lookouts giving long coastal views. The Jerdacuttup Lakes have water birds and bream when not too saline. Mason Bay and Starvation Boat Harbour have campsites and good views from the headlands.
- 24 MUNGLINUP BEACH AND OLDFIELD RIVER ESTUARY Munglinup Beach Road has good viewpoints of the winding inlet, which is scenic and deep, with small boat access for bream fishing. It is also good for canoeing and has a footpath along the east shore.

CAMPSITES All the campsites shown by the brown symbol have toilets and barbecues with picnic tables, except that the southern of the two Hamersley Inlet sites has no barbecue. The sites in Hopetoun and Ravensthorpe towns and at Munglinup Beach have fresh water. The Quoin Head site is currently closed for repair after the 2006 fire. Camping fees are charged at all sites.

#### DISCLAIMER

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the information in this publication is correct, matters covered by this publication are subject to change. Fitzgerald Coast Tourism Association and Ravensthorpe Hopetoun Area Promotions does not assume and hereby disclaims any express or implied liability whatsoever to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, whether these errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause.

Guide originally compiled by Ann Williams for Ravensthorpe Hopetoun Area Promotions.

Updated in 2011 on behalf of Fitzgerald Coast Tourism Association.

The map and plans compiled and computer-drawn by Ralph Cooper.

