

# The Colin Thiele Drive



Colin Thiele is one of Australia's most versatile authors. He has published over 100 books. Colin Thiele's books have won universal acclaim in Australia and overseas. Some of his novels including *Storm Boy*, *Fire on The Stone*, *Blue Fin* and *Sun on the Stubble* have been filmed for cinema television.

Colin was born at Eudunda in 1920 and this is a journey of recognition of some of the sights and places he grew up with during his early years of his life.

The Colin Thiele Drive is a journey of approx 25 kilometres, taking in the scenic beauty the district has to offer whilst highlighting spots of interest from the early life of Eudunda's favourite son - Author & Educator Colin Thiele.

Commencing at the Heritage Gallery in Bruce Street The Colin Thiele Drive winds through the town and nearby countryside, the points of interest are sign fronted with 'Gustav & his Dog'.

*The Eudunda Heritage Committee wishes you a very enjoyable drive.*



1 Depart from the Family Heritage Gallery in Bruce Street, travel north, turn left onto Lloyd Street, then turn right onto Barwell Street.



*Colin's uncle's house, inspiration for "Uncle Gustav's Ghosts"*



2 The house at number 26 was home to two of Colin's bachelor uncles where he lived whilst attending the Eudunda Higher Primary School. It was here he first heard the stories of "Uncle Gustav's Ghosts," stories he used in later books.



3 Continue north on Barwell Street onto Bruce Street, at Pine Ave, turn left, first house on left was Mutter Knabe's Nursing Home where Colin was born in November 1920.



4 Continue north along Point Pass Road for 3.9km passing the SA Water pumping station, to the small settlement of Emmaus, founded in 1872 with a church, manse, and later a school. All that remains today is the cemetery found adjacent to the pine plantation. Turn left at the intersection onto Emmaus Road.



5 2kms further you will see the ruins of the Rabbit Cannery factory, established in 1878 in an attempt to eradicate the plagues of rabbits in the district at that time.



6 Passing one of the districts larger dairy herds, continue on to Julia Road, turn right for a further 2.4 km, veer right onto Scenic Road leaving Louann Park (named after a popular Julia family of the early 1920's, Lou & Ann Rahder,) on your right.



7 Travel 1.3 km, on left is home of Colin Thiele from 1920 - 1936, the view to the right overlooks the Murray Flats to the east.



8 Travel north along Scenic Road for 2.5 km to Reichelt Road taking in the views over the escarpments, of the golden church spire of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Point Pass, and the wide valley below.

Turn left and drive for a further 1.8km into Julia. Then turn left towards Eudunda passing on your left the old Julia Primary School which Colin Thiele attended from 1926 to 1932.



9 1.1km further is the Julia Lutheran Church where Colin Thiele's parents and grandparents are buried. (Note nearness of Colin Thiele's home, away to the left).



10 Drive on south passing the Louann Park again, and after 5.8km, turn right into Hampden Road (note platform all which remains of Railway Station). Colin Thiele caught train here for Kapunda where he attended High School. It was also second highest railway platform in the State, Mt Lofty being the highest. Do U-turn. Complex of buildings on left once thriving store of A.G. Obst.



11 Return to Julia Road, turn right onto narrow bridge over old Kapunda-Morgan railway line. After 3.6km turn left onto Wahroonga Road, you will pass Eudunda-Cowie Springs on the left in the paddock.



*Centenary Gardens, Colin Thiele sculpture*



12 Travel on the bitumen towards Eudunda, turn left into Gunn Street. Follow the road around, with the Memorial Gardens on the right. Turn into Kapunda Street (Lauke's Mill on left), proceed over the railway line and then turn right into the Centenary Gardens where you can rest a while with Colin Thiele, at his sculpture.

Be sure to look at the Centenary of Federation Shelter and surrounding walls which feature both family and district memorials.