

## History of Nyngan

The first recorded European visitor to the region was Major Thomas Mitchell who led an expeditionary party that camped at the present site of Nyngan on 10 May 1835.



A plaque marking the spot where Major Thomas Mitchell camped is located in Rotary Park.

*Mitchell described the camping spot as a 'long pond with many birds, ducks and broilgas'.*

It was almost fifty years before the construction of a railway line to Bourke provided the impetus for a township on the Bogan.

Around 1882, residents of the small settlement of Canonba, approximately 30 kilometres north on the banks of Duck Creek, moved to establish a town by the railway and Nyngan came into being. A number of houses from the older settlement were dismantled and re-erected at Nyngan.



Iroquois Helicopter

## April 1990 Floods

Record heavy rains in the catchment of the Bogan saw floodwaters rise to alarming levels, threatening the town. Despite the best efforts of the townspeople (they laid 260,000 sandbags), and an army of volunteers, the levee was breached.

By the morning of April 24, Nyngan was under water and isolated in a vast inland sea. With damage estimated at \$50 million and all services to the town cut, it was decided to airlift almost the entire population of Nyngan to safety until the flood water receded and services could be restored.

This remarkable feat of organisation was commemorated by the gift of an IROQUOIS Helicopter from the Australian Government to the people of Nyngan. The helicopter, a symbol of courage, played a vital role in the Vietnam War Battle of Long Tan, and stood as a static display adjacent to the Railway Station until 21 May 2011. It has now been transported to Caloundra to be restored and placed on display there. Caloundra RSL has kindly restored and transported a replacement Iroquois to our town.

With the assistance of the State and Federal Government, and people from all over NSW and beyond, Nyngan has been fully restored. The levee, one metre higher than the 1990 flood level, protects the town and its people.