

# FACT SHEET: XANTIPPE

Latitude 30.286 Longitude 117.001

Xantippe (*zan tip e*) a rural locality situated 33km east of Dalwallinu and is the only locality name within Australia that starts with X. As it is not actually a town an individual postcode has not been allocated but is covered by the Dalwallinu postcode, 6609.



The dictionary defines Xantippe as (5<sup>th</sup> century bc), wife of the philosopher Socrates. She is remembered for allegedly bad tempered behaviour towards her husband. Research also shows the name has another meaning of “looking for water from a deeper well” which ties in with the Gnamma holes in the area.

## Xantippe Timeline

- 1925 First farms were taken up in the area  
Telephone exchange commenced
- 1927 Xantippe water tank was completed
- 1930 Xantippe School was opened (located on Struggle Street)  
Xantippe Progress association was formed
- 1931 Recreation Reserve was gazetted (100 acres)
- 1932 Railway Minister visited the district
- 1934 Progress Association closes
- 1940 The school is closed and the building is shifted to Kalannie



Xantippe Progress Association Meeting at Xantippe School, Xantippe School Children

## Xantippe Nature Reserve

The Xantippe nature reserve is a popular spot for people wanting to visit the locality. During the spring months the reserve is alive with wattle and wildflowers. A climb to the top of the rock gives you a 360 degree view of surrounding farms.



The reserve is home to the Xantippe Water Tank, one of 11 similar tanks built throughout the wheatbelt. Work on the concrete tank commenced in 1923 and was completed in 1927. The tank was originally intended to supply water to the town of Dalwallinu, unfortunately they had trouble pumping the water over the hills. In later years the tank supplied water to the surrounding farms. The tank is unusual in the fact that water flows along the pipe, level with the bottom of the tank, then flows upward to enter the tank at the top. A walk along the track following the pipe will take you to the granite outcrop where the water is collected, a low wall has been erected to channel the water from the rocks into the pipe.



## Dalwallinu – Xantippe Mail Service

*Extract from 'A Century of Memories 1910 -2010'*

Commenced 1926 and conducted by Mr Fred O'Brien. Terminated 31.12.33 and advertised in North Eastern Courier Paper. Successful applicant was Obadiah Griffiths for £104 per annum. Commence contract on 1.1.34. The contract was then transferred to JWF Paulett, who in turn transferred to KW Nicholls on 1.1.39. The contract was taken over on 20.9.41 by Carl Hunt Wahl, a carrier at Pithara who also had the East Pithara Mail Service. Mr Wahl's truck license number was DL 705. 1946 this service (Dalwallinu-Xantippe) serviced 20 dwellings consisting of 53 adults.