Hawston fast facts

Hawston was originally called Haw's Town. Named after Charles Haw, a civil commissioner of Caledon.

Founded in 1859 by Samuel Dyer. Living and working on an island off Gansbaai Samuel Dyer gathered seal skins. Samuel relinguished his right to the island which is now called Dyer Island in exchange for property where Hawston is today.

Hawston Harbour was previously known as Herriesbaai.

Die Kraal was a well known gathering space and camping spot. Die Kraal occupied the area next to the Thusong Hall and a section where the Library stands. This was a property for fishermen and lime-burners, who collected shells and burnt them to produce lime. Older residents remember the fun gatherings at Die Kraal, where bazaars were held and fishmongers and vegetable farmers sold their produce.

The number of churches demonstrates the importance of religion to the community.

* Grigua Church is a National Monument and older than 68 years.

* St Andrew's Church, Parsonage and Church Hall overlook Paddavlei. The original church was built in 1902 and demolished in 1919. The existing church was built in 1970. Ability House and LOVE.ability shop is situated adjacent to St Andrew's Church. Ability House is a project of the Overberg Wheelchair Association in Hawston aimed to create a safe workspace for persons with disabilities and provide them with income via the shop. Ability house also offers creativity classes and make corporate gifts on order.

* NG Mission Church overlooks Paddavlei and was constructed in the late 19th century in a vernacular style. Ruins of the old pastorie are adjacent.



Charles Haw



Paddavlei was good grazing land. Today



Hawston Cross

A stainless steel Celtic Cross stands tall about 1km from Hawston Harbour (Hermanus side). This cross lines up with Gansbaai Harbour and assist fishing vessels with navigation.



