

Murrurundi and District Historical Society

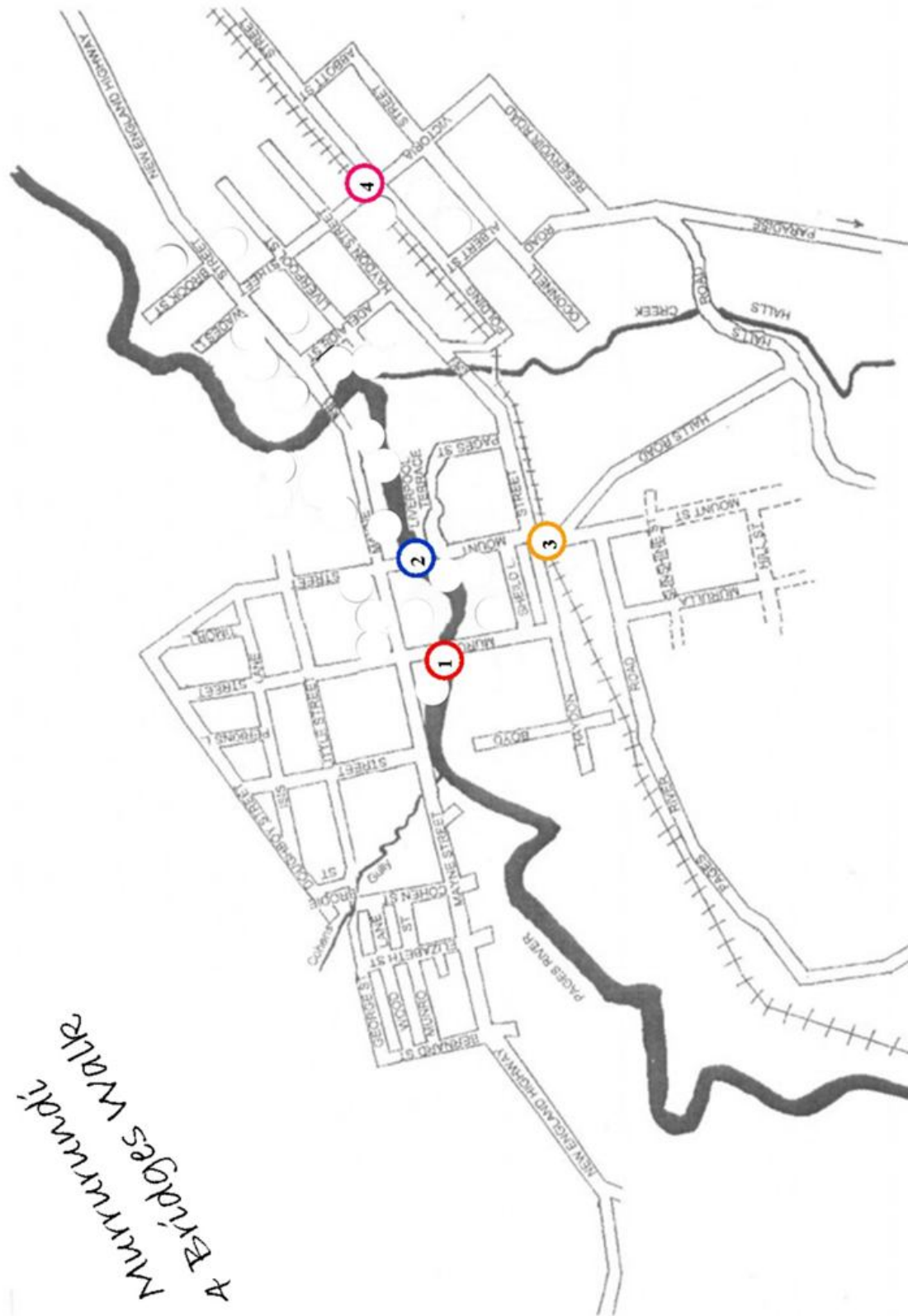


4 Bridges Walk



Bridges have played an important part in the history of the town. The Page's River history tells of a slow flowing stream which could change to a rapid torrent following rainfall events. Before 1859 the town was unable to be crossed sometimes for days on end.

Above is the **Swinging Bridge**; this is the third bridge on this sight. It was originally called 'Gordon's Bridge' after Dr Gordon who initiated local fundraising to build the bridge which was washed away in 1870 flood.



Murrurundi
4 Bridges Walk

With thanks to Barbara Riddell for providing information about the Murrurundi Bridges.

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The Courthouse and the Royal Hotel were both built in 1863. Judges at that time, travelled to Murrurundi for legal sessions and stayed at the Royal Hotel and then crossed to the Court House.

The water in the Page River was frequently too deep to safely cross so a bridge was built for his Honour's convenience. The original bridge was washed away during a flood and so the bridge that we see today was built by Keegan in 1927.



The **EG Bush Bridge** was built in 1976. A walkway was built to provide easier access to St Luke's Church. Originally built with a steep stairway to climb on the northern end, in 2009 the walkway was modernised and ramps were built at both ends to replace the stairs.



The Railway came to Murrurundi in 1873. As the engines were wood fired steam engines, the water to produce the steam needed topping up frequently. **The water tower** was constructed to fill up the boilers in the engines. As it stands today it is a reminder of the days when Murrurundi was the centre piece of the old Murrurundi steam locomotive depot.

The State Rail Authority planned to demolish it in 1991 but it was saved by the efforts of the Murrurundi Historical Society and is a reminder of the Heritage of the town.

The rail line cut through the hill as the line progressed to the tunnel through the range.

A **bridge** was built for the ease of the settlers, such as the Teys who owned the sandstone quarry, and the other families who lived closer to the start of the Page, to travel to their properties instead of being forced to take a much longer route home



Murrurundi was once a very busy railway station as the centre of the northern railway operations ,until 1926 when the operations were shifted to Werris Creek. Trains were originally powered by steam (from burning coal) and later by diesel.

The population of Murrurundi diminished as Murrurundi was no longer a railway town after diesel replaced steam.

The railway station had housed many buildings including a restaurant, newspaper shop and other conveniences for passengers as the old steam trains took on more fuel and water and extra engines to haul the train up the range and through the Ardglenn tunnel.

