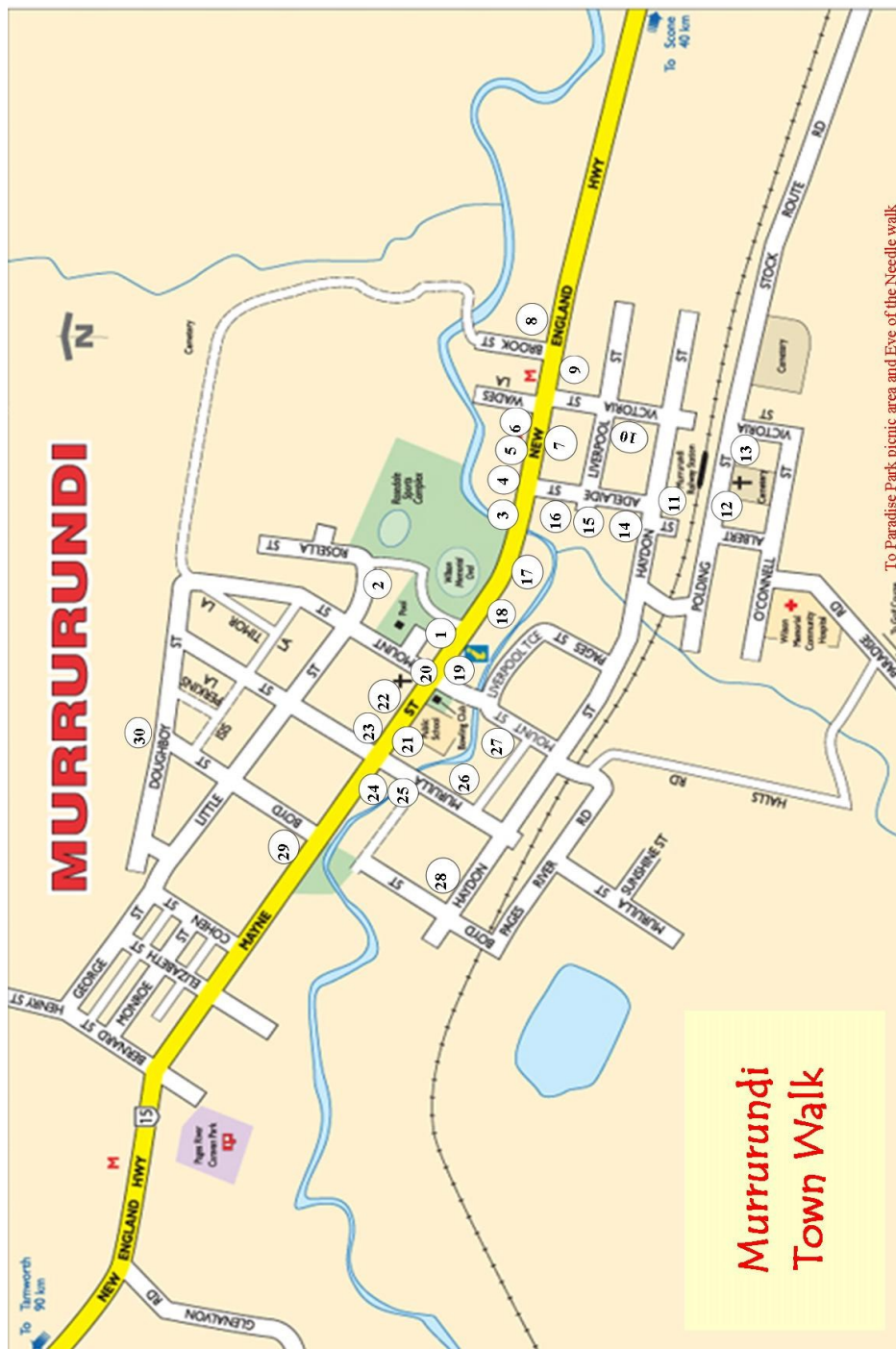




Murrurundi and District Historical Society

127 Mayne Street Murrurundi NSW 2338

Phone: **0418 647 176** or: **0418 211 404** E-mail: **president.mdhi@gmail.com**

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Murrurundi Heritage Walk



Come on up!



Murrurundi is a small rural town of approximately 800 people. It is from the Wanaruah place name "Murrumdoorandi" that the town's name derives. Despite understandable local publicity which claims that it means 'nestled in the valley' it seems more likely that it refers to five unusual rock formations near Temple Court (four now remain) and may mean 'five fingers' or 'meeting place at the five fingers.'

When the government laid out the township of Murrurundi in 1840 Thomas Haydon decided to create the adjacent private village of Haydonton which serviced the local estates, government officers and travellers. In time the name Haydonton fell into disuse. Haydonton forming the town's commercial district.

The town is known as the 'Crown of the Hunter' for its significant heritage, cultural activities especially visual arts, and impressive horse facilities.

The area in a 4km radius from the Post Office is a National Trust Heritage Precinct.

1. RSL Memorial Hall Mayne Street. The Victorian Italianate Hall was built around 1897. It became the RSL Memorial Hall following World War II.

2. Rosedale (National Trust) Little Street. Built between 1848 and 1852 and extended 1890s. Now used as a private residence.

3. Bridge House (National Trust) Mayne Street. Built in 1855 from local bricks and locally mined sandstone with a shingle roof (now concealed with iron).

4. CBS Bank Mayne Street. Built 1937 last major significant commercial building in Murrurundi. Currently Haydon Hall cafe/gallery

5. Dooleys Store (National Trust) Mayne Street. Business has been conducted here since 1872. The present store was built 1905 for Joseph Dooley.

6. White Hart Hotel (National Trust) Mayne Street. Originally built in 1842, by Caroline Wrightman, the White Hart Hotel was renovated in 1857 with the original dining room still in use. The current left side was rebuilt between 1901 and 1906 and the second storey was added in 1936. Extensively renovated in 2010.

7. Shire Council Chambers Mayne Street. Built in 1906 as Warrah Shire Council Chambers with renovations being carried out between 1954 and 1968.

8. Haydonton Inn Mayne Street. Built from local bricks in 1850, the building was licensed to JG McKay until the mid 1860's. It was once called the Carrier Arms.

9. Skin and Wool Store Mayne Street. Currently being used as a private workshop, this building was constructed from handmade thumbprint bricks around 1856. It was used as a skin and wool store for many years.

10. Masonic Hall Victoria Street. Built in 1911 for £400 and became the Lodge of Hope in 1966. This is now a private residence.

11. Railway Station Victoria Street. The railway station building was completed in 1872. The station was the terminus of the main northern line prior to construction of the Ardglen tunnel. Now used by Murrurundi Arts

Council.

12. St Joseph's Church Polding & O'Connell Streets. Built in 1860 and still in use. Consecrated by Bishop Polding after whom the street was named. The altar was constructed from more than 1000 pieces of marble and has been recorded by the National Trust. The Presbytery was built in 1901. The cemetery has graves of pioneers including Peter and Thomas Haydon and Ben Hall's mother Eliza (Elizabeth Hall).

13. Murrurundi House Polding Street. Was built in 1880 as the convent for the Sisters of Mercy, the school and convent was closed in 1970. This building is now privately owned.

14. Railway Hotel Adelaide Street. Originally built of brick in 1880, the Railway Hotel was rebuilt in the 1920's after it was damaged by fire.

15. Rosebank Corner Adelaide & Liverpool Streets. Built in 1889 on land originally purchased by Ben Hall. (Former Dr's surgery)

16. Hall Family Memorial site Adelaide Street. Ben Hall senior and his wife Eliza purchased the first town block from Thomas Haydon in 1842. The Memorial is built on a small part of the original block. Ben Hall the bushranger lived in Murrurundi with his parents.

17. Post Office Mayne Street Post Office was built in 1913, now private residence.

18. Pioneer Cottage Mayne Street. The cottage was donated to the community by the Musgrave family and moved from Timor by the council and re-erected by the community in 1996

19. Literary Institute & Church Hall Mayne Street. This is the site of the original Police Station in 1840, School of Arts and Mechanics Institute in 1873. It is now the Museum and Church hall used for Museum exhibitions. It is also the home of:

- ♦ an Artillery Gun captured by Australian Forces in World War I and distributed to civic centres by the Federal Government.
- ♦ Fordson tractor 1917-1920 which ran on Benzene
- ♦ Ruston Proctor made between 1880-1920

generating seven horsepower.

20. Horse and Dog Water Troughs Mount Street. This double trough Structure was built in memory of the drover and his dogs. The site is also the location of a well used prior to the provision of a town water supply.

21. Murrurundi Public School Mayne Street. The front right section was designed by Horbury Hunt and built in 1877. The trees in the school grounds are registered with the Botanic Gardens in Sydney.

22. CBC Bank Premises Mayne Street. Built in 1865 as the Joint Stock Bank, it was taken over by the CBC in 1870 and operated until 1938. It is now a private residence.

23. Royal Hotel and Cobb & Co Stables Mayne Street. The stables were built in 1860 from local sandstone and shingles which are now covered with iron. The Royal Hotel was built in 1863 and was used as a Cobb & Co changing depot until 1867.

24. Telegraph Office Mayne Street. Built as the Telegraph Office in 1861, it amalgamated with the Post Office in 1870. It closed in 1913 when the new Post Office was built, now private residence.

25. Suspension Bridge Murulla Street. This original bridge over the Pages River was built before World War 1 and is the third bridge on the site. One of the former bridges was wide enough to transport the Chief Magistrate's buggy from the Royal Hotel to the Court House in times of flood.

26. Court House, Police Station and Gaol Murulla Street. There are three buildings in the law and order complex. 1. the brick courthouse with two small wings, incorporating the Police Station, 2. gaol and, 3. lock-up keepers residence which consists of a two storey brick block flanked by two single storey sandstone wings. The ground level verandah is a later addition. Both were designed by Alexander Dawson and built in 1860-61 on the site of the original 1842 courthouse. The sergeants residence at the southern end of the complex was built in the 1890's.

27. St Paul's Anglican Church Mount Street.

Designed by Horbury Hunt, the church was built of local sandstone in 1872-74. The tiles on the wall behind the sanctuary are from England, in memory of Reverend WDR Lewis who is buried on the right of the altar. The windows are grouped in two's and three's between buttresses. The square bell tower was completed as a memorial to Frederick White of Harben Vale. The single storey vicarage at 3 Mount Street was built of local bricks in 1858.

28. Ethelstone Haydon Street. Alexander Brodie built this residence for his daughter and later sold it to Judges Mayniott and Temple.

29. Bobadil House Mayne and Boyd Streets. Built of local sandstone for H. Dangar in 1843, Bobadil was originally the White Swan before being known as the Wool Packer Inn. The stables were lost in a fire which destroyed the roof burying a sulky and equipment. Now restored as an Art Gallery. The stables have now been restored and are used as an Art Gallery.

30. Shale Works and Manager Residence Doughboy St. There are relics of the original shale works and also the Managers residence built in 1912. The building boasts unusually large attic windows for its time. It was used as the Joint Stock before it went broke in 1892. Now private residence.

Paradise Park

This delightful picnic area in semi-tropical surroundings is located at the end of Paradise Road, past the Golf Course. For the fit take a hike through the 'Eye of the Needle' rock formation. Delightful views of the township and surrounding valley may be seen from the rocky outcrop halfway along this 1.5 hour return trip walk.

