

HISTORY

Knox Park

Edward Knox founded the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in 1855, which once owned most of the land where Murwillumbah now stands. Knox's son, E.W. Knox, was responsible for opening the sugar mill at Condong in 1880. A land sale of historic interest was held on 7th April 1888, when the C.S.R put the land up for sale by public auction. A block of 17 acres was withheld from sale and, while retaining ownership, the C.S.R permitted its use by the public for general recreation. The land was bought by the Government in 1896 for 200 pounds, but a provision was inserted into the land transfer that the area was to be known as Knox Park.

Knox Park originally had a grandstand and soccer field. The grandstand was burned down in the early 1980's and never replaced. Due to poor drainage, the playing field was converted into a large lily pond with water fountains.

Lions Lookout/Reservoirs

During the great fire of 1907, Murwillumbah did not have any infrastructure for fighting fires with reticulated water. Prompted by this tragedy, the Council, shortly after, constructed a pumping station down on the river bank. A main was built to take the water from the river up to a reservoir on Hospital Hill (close to Lion's Lookout)

This water supply, with some modifications, served the town until 1925 when a small dam was built across a stream in Mt Warning National Park. The water from this dam was carried through a main to a reservoir at Murwillumbah. Later, water was pumped from Boat Harbour near Nobby's Creek Road to Murwillumbah.

On August 19th 1983, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Works, Mr Jack Ferguson, officially opened the dam that had been named in honour of Clarrie Hall. Clarrie had been Shire President for 17 of the 26 years that he had served as a Tweed Shire Councillor. The dam was planned "to provide an assured and high quality water supply past the year 2000". The Clarrie Hall Dam to this day supplies Murwillumbah with its water.

Murwillumbah Museum was officially opened in 1988 to coincide with the Bicentenary. It was originally part of the Tweed Shire Council Office. Later it was subdivided into flats and then converted into the Museum. Originally, the Museum was located in the old School of Arts building.

The Museum has fascinating sections devoted to the history of local industries such as timber cutting, dairying, banana growing and early life in Murwillumbah. There is a History of Radio room and an extensive rock collection of 'thunder eggs'.

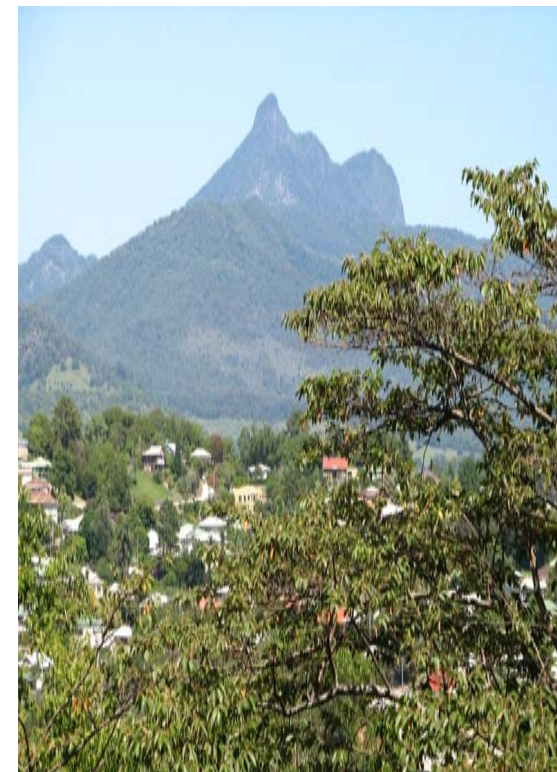
Outside the museum is a large Robey Steam Engine, which was brought to Murwillumbah from England in 1907. It was possibly used for pumping water out of the mines and later drove a saw mill on the western side of Mt Nullum. The museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am-4pm, as well as, every fourth Sunday from 10am-4pm. It is well worth a visit and only charges a nominal entrance fee. **Convent School** was officially opened on St Patrick's Day in 1904.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained herein is correct. In the case of any errors noted please contact 02 6674 9500

Lion's Lookout Walk



**"MURWILLUMBAH
ON THE MOVE"**

**STAY TRIM AND KEEP FIT
WITH EASY EXERCISE**

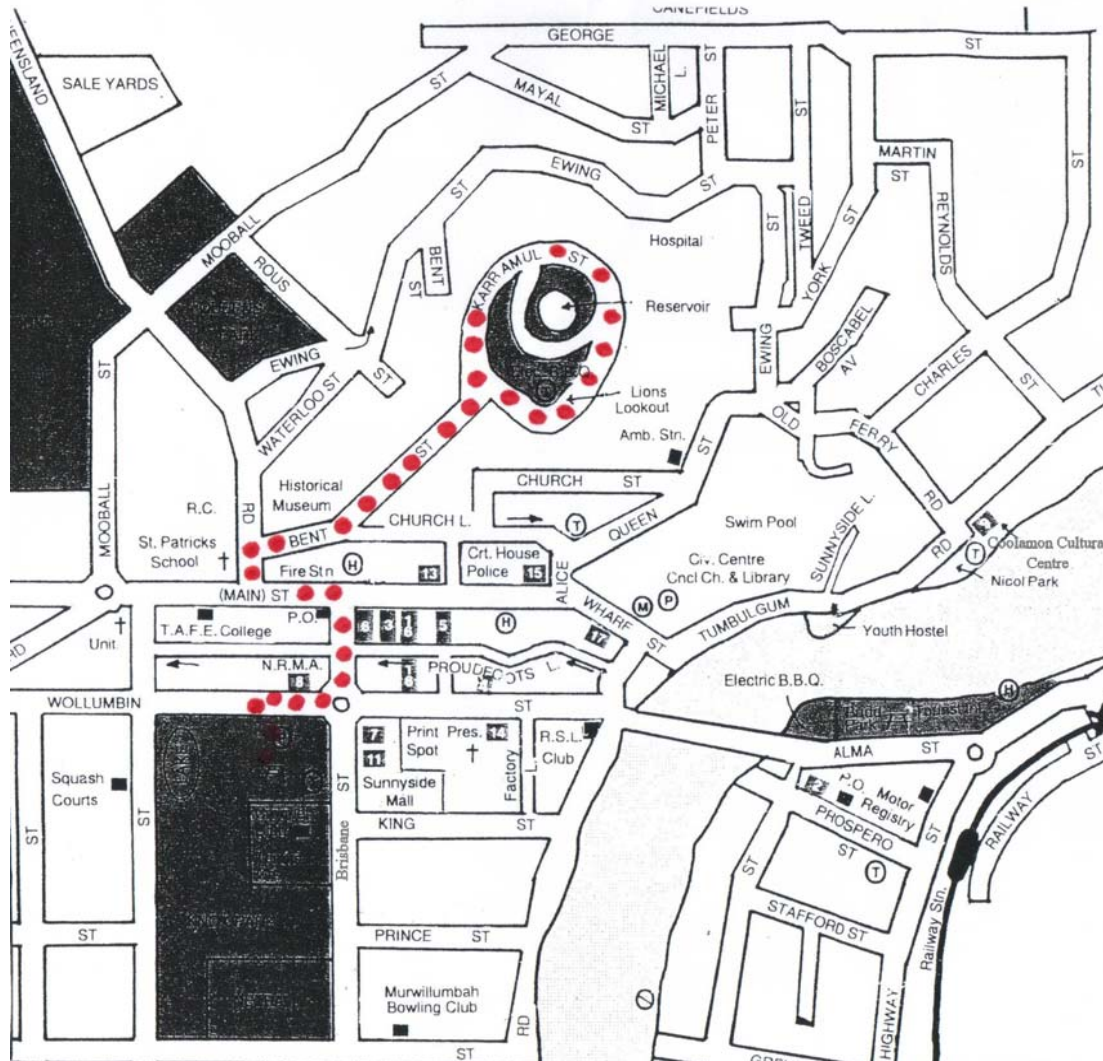
The series of brochures on Historic Walks of Tweed Shire are for information purposes only. Please consult your doctor or health professional before undertaking any historical walk to ensure the activity is appropriate for you.

LION'S LOOKOUT WALK

Grade: Medium-Hard - steep ascent & descent

Distance: approx. 2km (return)

Best walked in the cool of the day and be sure to take water.



DIRECTIONS

1. **Knox Park Rotunda**. Cross Wollumbin Street and walk up Brisbane Street. to Main Street.
2. Cross Main Street at **Post Office**, turn left and walk up to Queensland Road. The Presbytery is on the left.
3. Walk up **Bent Street**. (sign to Lion's Lookout)
4. On the left is the **Museum**, which was opened in 1988 (Bicentenary year).
5. Continue up **Bent Street**, walking in the shade of the subtropical rainforest. On the way up this steep section, on the left is a plaque where the first school was established. Admire views of Murwillumbah on the way up.
6. Follow road up. It eventually flattens out at the top. Keep the two large water reservoirs on your right.
7. At the top, stop at **Lion's Lookout** and admire the extensive views of Murwillumbah township, **Tweed River** and the cane fields.
8. There are several picnic tables at the top to enjoy a break or have a picnic.
9. Continue to loop around the road, keeping the water reservoirs on your right. Walk down the hill eventually joining up to **Bent Street** (the way you walked up).
10. Walk back to **Knox Park** past the **Murwillumbah Museum**. Stop to admire the old steam engine and venture inside the museum (small admittance fee).
11. Turn left down **Main Street** to the **Imperial Hotel**. Cross the road near the Post Office and continue past the Escape Gallery/ coffee shop down Brisbane Street, and back to **Knox Park**.