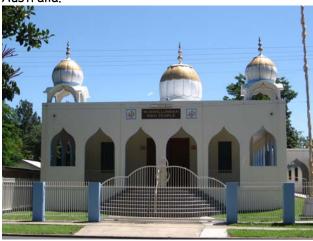# Murwillumbah Town Walk

Murwillumbah Bridge - in 1901 a lift-span bridge was built allowing shipping to continue to go further upstream and this was replaced by the present bridge in 1968.

River Board Walk - built at Nicholl Park by the Tweed Shire Council and opened in 1993.

Riverside Backpackers/Youth Hostel - this colourful Federation building was built in 1911 and overlooks the Tweed River. It was formerly the home of Captain Lowe, who ran the river boat ferry. In 1980, the house was converted into a Youth Hostel and Tassie Duff became the manager. Currently, he is the longest serving manager of any Youth Hostel in Australia. Travellers of all age groups stay here, with about 75% from overseas and 25% from all over Australia.

Sikh Temple

Council Buildings: Tweed Shire Council meets regularly in the Murwillumbah Civic & Cultural Centre, opened in 1975 by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. The building also contains a public library. Beside the library is the Autumn Club where many social activities are held for Murwillumbah's seniors.

Swimming Pool - a river pool was originally Murwillumbah's town pool. In 1932 a small in-ground pool was established on the corner of Tumbulgum Road. In 1962, the current Olympic Pool was constructed and the original pool was subdivided into three smaller pools.

Sikh Temple or Gurdwara - The Old Boy's Rugby League Club built in 1978 was converted to the Sikh Temple in 1983. The beautiful new temple, built beside the old one in 1998, is now open daily. A service is held on the first Sunday of each month. Currently, there are over 100 Sikh families around the Murwillumbah area.

Knox Park - was named in honour of William Knox, Chairman of the Colonial Sugar Refinery and the Murwillumbah Commercial Bank in the late 1880's. Part of a large cane field which ran from Commercial Rd. to Nullum St. Mr Knox thought the park would benefit the growing population.

Murwillumbah Court House - In 1869, Joshua Bray held Courts of Request and Courts of Petty Sessions when required from his home. A slab hut situated at the old ferry crossing was the first Court House in town. Bray became the first Police Magistrate and over the next 20 years settled many disputes from here. In 1879 a new Court House was erected but later destroyed along with 65 other buildings in the great fire of 1907. A new Court House was opened in 1909 as part of the Police Station and Offices. Before the days of electricity, the Court House was lit by beautiful Juno lamps. These lamps are on display at the Tweed River Regional Museum in Queensland Road, Murwillumbah.

"MURWILLUMBAH ON THE MOVE"

STAY TRIM AND KEEP FIT WITH EASY EXERCISE

THE TOWN WALK
Grade: Flat   Distance: 3km (approx)

DIRECTIONS

1. Start at the World Heritage Rainforest Centre (Tourist Information Centre) in Budd Park and continue along Alma Street and across Murwillumbah Bridge.
2. Turn right along the levee bank parallel to Tumbulgum Road.
3. Note Council Chambers and Library on the left and colourful Riverside Backpackers Youth Hostel on the right. Continue along path to wooden walkway and Coolamon Cultural Centre. Note Skinner Lowes Wharf.
4. Return via same route to Murwillumbah Bridge.

5. Walk down steps and pass under bridge (rather than crossing the road). Continue along Commercial Road along the river, entering the river bank through the levee gate and walk for a couple of minutes until the path ends in a solid dirt track. Turn around and exit the levee wall.
6. Cross Commercial Road into Prince Street.
7. Turn left into Brisbane Street for half a block admiring the picturesque elevated timber 'Queensland' homes.
8. Right into Condong Street along the edge of the netball fields of Knox Park.
9. Turn right at the next corner into Nullum Street, walking past the impressive Sikh Temple on the left.
10. Cut into the park near the water lily pond and through the shady, short rainforest walk & skateboard park.
11. Continue towards the park's covered rotunda and view the tree statue dedicated to the early cedar cutters of the area (Public Toilets)
12. Cross Wollumbin Street at the crossing and continue up Brisbane Street past the Escape Art Gallery and coffee shop and Post Office to Main Street.
13. Turn right at the Imperial Hotel into Main Street.
14. Walk in the shade past the shops on the left hand side of the road, past the Court House.
15. Continue into Wharf Street turn right into Tumbulgum Road walking back across bridge to the World Heritage Rainforest Centre.
16. Enjoy a picnic under the shady trees on the banks of the beautiful Tweed River.

HISTORY

Coolamon Cultural Centre - a Federation building, with large wooden verandahs was originally the home of the Proudfoot family.

In 1986, the Doug Moran National Portrait prize was launched in the Tweed. As a result, donations were received to enable Council to begin work converting this building into the Tweed Regional Art Gallery. It was opened in 1988 (Bicentennial year), and for the occasion, special fire bricks were decorated by local people to form the walkway entrance to the former Art Gallery.

In 2006, the new Tweed River Art Gallery was built just south of the town on land donated by the Anthony family. The former Art Gallery was renamed the Coolamon Cultural Centre and now houses Community and Cultural Services for the Tweed Shire Council.

First Ferry Crossing – located beside the present Coolamon Cultural Centre. In the late 1870's the ferryman, Mr Doig worked a small ferry by hand, which connected both sides of the town. He lived for some time in a tent nearby.

Shops soon sprang up near the crossing, including the Cosmopolitan Hotel, which eventually burned down and was replaced by the Proudfoot family home.

As the ferry could only carry two horses and carts at any one time, it eventually became too small for the increasing town's transport. In 1895, a public meeting was called to improve communications between south and north Murwillumbah. A punt was installed which stayed in operation until 1901. It operated from Budd Park to Ferry Rd. transporting passengers across the river and providing connection to the railway until the bridge was constructed.