

## HISTORY

The first record of a show being held dates back to 1898. The original land dedicated as a showground was 10 acres in 1890, an additional 5 acres were added in 1898 and a further 5 acres were added in 1911. The main pavilion was originally built on top of the hill and used as the Murwillumbah Primary School for a short time, after the school in Bent St. was blown down. It was moved to its present position between 1905-1910. In 1958 the present pavilion was raised to become two stories to make room for more exhibitors. Because the old grandstand was unsafe, it was demolished in 1972.

Much work was carried out in the 1970's. The hill was cleared and tidied up. grandstands were built, concrete roads were made around the ring, beef cattle yards were built, stables, poultry and rural youth pavilions renovated and repaired. In fact, much work was completed in time for Prince Charles visit to Murwillumbah in 1977, where he took in the showgrounds.

A fire destroyed the cattle pavilion which was replaced in 1984. New horse stables have also been built.

During one show, a flood occurred, the reptile pit was flooded and a crocodile escaped, but after much panic it was captured when found drying itself under a camphor laurel tree. Luckily it was caught before the morning paper could headline, "Crocodile Loose in Murwillumbah".

The show is held on the first Friday and Saturday in November every year.

**The Branding Rail** - in 1970, Toby Dawes was drinking in a pub in Brisbane and noticed different brands on the wall. He came home and told the Show Society about it. Jack Catterall was on the Show Society at the time and undertook the massive task of designing and building a modern booth. In 1972, the plans were drawn. The building incorporated a large area with tables and chairs where people could sit down and enjoy a drink. Two gas barbeques were installed. The building was built with the intention of hiring it out for parties and other social functions. There were also two tea and coffee counters for serving sandwiches and other light snacks. Sly's electric sawmills donated most of the timber for its construction. The building was opened in 1972 and officially named Sly's Booth. There are three huge supporting logs above the board which are the branding rails. The branding rails provide stock owners with the opportunity of recording their stock brands or those of their families.

**Queens Park** - a scenic park was once swamp land which included the local garbage dump. Once the area had served its purpose as waste land it was then covered with soil and made into a park.

**Banner Street Park** - established in 1979 by the Tweed Shire Council. It was originally the site of the old cemetery which has now been relocated. The first grave dates back to 1877 and the names of the previous inhabitants are preserved on the Sacred Memorial constructed here.

Produced with financial assistance of Tweed Shire Council and North Coast Area Health Service, as part of the "Murwillumbah on the Move" initiative 2007. Production and Design - Marguerite Buckley



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

# Showground Walk



## "MURWILLUMBAH ON THE MOVE"

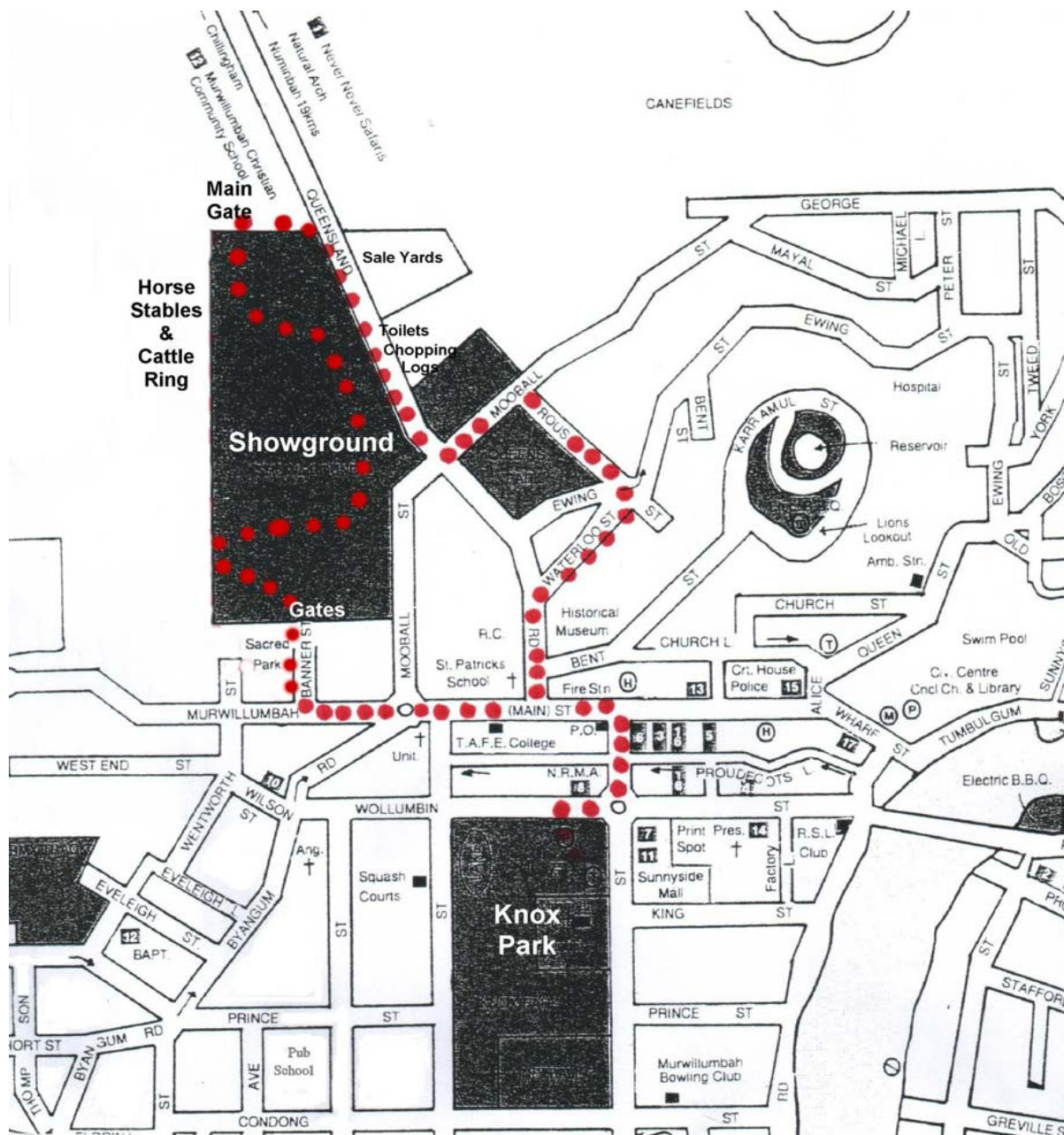
### STAY TRIM & KEEP FIT WITH EASY EXERCISE

Ref: Taken from Johansen, Ron "Tales of Our Times" Murwillumbah Print Spot 2003, p5.

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.

## SHOWGROUND WALK

Grade: easy-medium Distance: 2.4km (return)



## DIRECTIONS

1. Start at Knox Park Rotunda, cross Wollumbin Street at the crossing and head toward the Post Office.
2. Turn left into Murwillumbah Street, walk uphill and pass the Uniting Church until you reach the roundabout. Continue to walk along Murwillumbah Street.
3. Turn right into Banner Street, walk past the Masonic Centre and through Showground gates. Note the cane fields and sewerage treatment works. Walk through the park and follow the track down to the showground.
4. Follow path around the Showground. View the grandstands, stables and Branding Rail.
5. Walk through the Main Gate, turn right to Queensland Road.
6. Turn left into Mooball Street noting Mt St Patrick's School oval on the right.
7. Walk along Mooball Street and turn right into Rous Street, Queens Park. Murwillumbah Services Soccer Club house and the Murwillumbah Army Reserve Training Depot are to the right.
8. Turn right into Waterloo Street. Mt Warning/ Wollumbin can be seen from here.
9. Turn left into Queensland Road and walk past the Museum to the Government offices.
10. Turn left, walk down Main Street noting the period architecture of the Imperial Hotel.
11. Cross to the Post Office (use crossing) and continue back to Knox Park Rotunda.