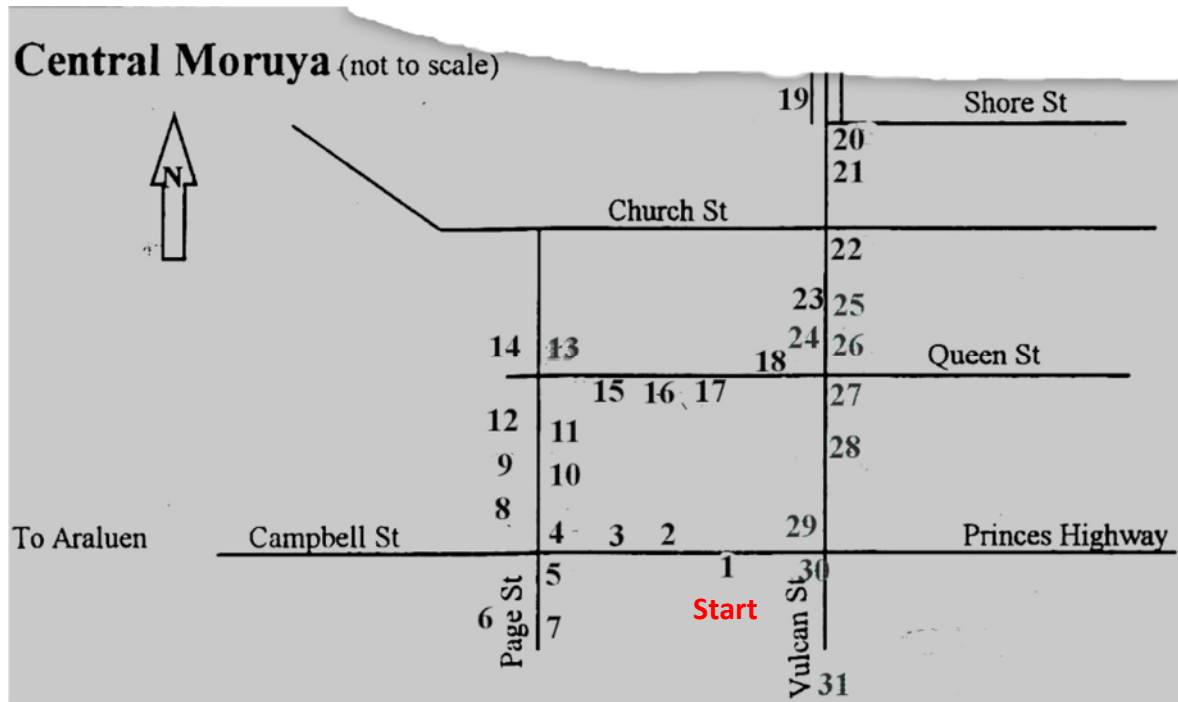


MORUYA HISTORIC TOWN WALK

From the Moruya Museum 85 Campbell Street

(with photographs from the past)



Surveyor Samuel Parkinson started surveying the town in 1850. In his preliminary plans he named the town Gundry after the original property in the area. However the Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell crossed out Gundry and replaced with the aboriginal name Moruya, thought to mean where the black swans meet. The town was gazetted on the 8th August 1851.

CAMPBELL STREET

Campbell Street was named after William Campbell an early settler in the area.



Australia Day Parade 1915 Campbell Street

1. **Moruya Museum.** Number 85

This walk starts at our Museum which is half of the duplex building at 85 and 87 Campbell Street. The building was built in 1875 by Abraham Emmott who founded the Beehive Stores which after several updates and changes of owners is now Harris Scarfe. Abraham occupied one half of the duplex and his son John the other. The design is basically that of an English terrace house, with verandahs added with the bricks being made locally. The Historical Society bought the western side terrace 1975. Its exterior was restored in 1982/3 with the help of a grant from the Heritage Council of NSW.

Part of the display at the Museum is the **Abernethy Lathe** which was made in 1881 at Aberdeen by J. Abernethy and Co. It is a lathe for turning large stone columns. Assembled from components of cast iron with milled gears and shafts mounted on a bed of approximately 10 metres length with toothed rails for positioning the travelling end.

2. **“Vivian Cottage”.** Number 60

This timber cottage was originally the home of Peter Orlando Williams, the town blacksmith, who also had a great knowledge of English literature, particularly Shakespeare. He Died in 1890.

3. **“Prospect”** Number 58

The granite buildings at one time housed the “Examiner”, the town’s oldest newspaper. The stone is local.

4. **The Old Post Office.** Cnr. Page and Campbell Street now a B & B.

The Post Office was built on this site in 1887 when the belief was that the commercial centre of town would grow on the higher ground. The front extensions were added in 1926, somewhat destroying the symmetry of the original design. The Post Office moved to Church Street in 1966.

5. **Old Shire Chambers.** Number 67 (Cnr. Page and Campbell Street)

Directly opposite the Post Office are the old Shire Chambers, which date from 1914. Following extensive renovations they were used as a medical centre and are at present rented to various community groups. They were sold by the Council after they moved to their new premises in 1980.

PAGE STREET

Named by Surveyor Parkinson presumably after someone known to him.



6. Houses 15 to 23 Page Street

Number 19 to 23. These three timber dwellings are good examples of later 19th century timber dwellings in Moruya. Number 23 is thought to be the oldest, historically it is associated with the beginning of the second phase of residential settlement in Moruya dating from around the late 1870s and extending west beyond Vulcan Street.

Numbers 15 and 17 are of a later period built in 1914. Number 17 is a Federation brick building, brick construction is unusual in Moruya.

7. The Masonic Hall. Number 16

The first Masonic Lodge was formed in 1878. The present building dates from 1891 and is used by the Coeur de Lion Lodge. The southern annex was constructed in 1946.

8. St Johns Anglican Rectory, Hall and Church. Number 15

The Rectory was built over the four years 1870 to 1874 of granite stones, rendered on the outside. Its church was then of weatherboard, being replaced in 1891 by the present church, designed by Arthur Blacket.

9. Mechanics Institute. Number 13

The Mechanics Institute was built in 1880 in a Victorian gothic style designed by Reginald Heber Barlow. The Institute was for many years the centre of social activities in Moruya. It also housed a library and a penny bank. It is now a community hall for hire.

10. Moruya Power House and Southern Star Newspaper Office. Number 10

This building is essentially a corrugated iron shed with an inter war stepped timber framed parapet at the Page Street frontage. The building housed the town's power generating unit from 1931 to 1941. The first electric street light in Moruya was lit in 1924.

11. Ex Moruya Examiner Office. Number 8

Originally this two story Victorian weatherboard Georgian building was the office of the town's oldest newspaper, the "Moruya Examiner", first published in 1864. R. H. Harvison, its most noted editor ran the paper from 1878 to 1913. For much of that time, he also carried on an auctioneer's business here. There was a bakery in the rear of the building and in the past it has served as the home of one of the town's early dentists.

12. The Uniting Church. Number 7

As the then Wesleyan church, this was Moruya's first stone built place of worship when it was opened in 1864. It is an example of a 19th century Victorian Gothic masonry building. The stonework was by Henry Zeigler.

13. The Catholic Church. Cnr. Page and Queen Street

In 1889 this imposing building was built for £5000 by a local builder Joseph Zeigler, using local granite. Its extensive grounds house the St Mary's Catholic School and until 1996 the Convent of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. The convent building is now used for parish and school administration.

14. Police Sergeant Residence. Number 3

Moruya was the centre of the police presence needed to maintain order in the surrounding gold fields. Across Page Street from the Catholic Church, this house was built in 1880. The building still belongs to the Police Force.



QUEEN STREET

Moruya's business centre was originally in Queen Street between Page and Vulcan Streets. In those days the southern side of Queen Street was the business side. The northern side as it is today, the Catholic Church.



Many of the old timber buildings seen in the above photograph have been replaced over the years.

15. 39 Queen Street.

This building dates from 1880. It is a timber framed cottage and was originally the residence and carpenter's shop of Edward Walter. It has had various commercial uses over the years.

16. Former Club House Hotel. Number 43.

Now a residential building this was once the site of the Kilkenny's Club House Hotel. In 1876 it was equipped with stables described (by its owner) as being constructed on "the most modern and improved principles" fit for the racehorses of the day. The hotel was rebuilt in its current form in 1915. The distinctive white silica bricks are thought to have come from the Botany Brick Company in Sydney, which made a practice of using any unused cargo space on the coastal steamers to ship its products to coastal centres in the early years of the 20th Century.

17. Kildare Hotel. Number 51.

This privately owned two storey house opposite the Catholic School was also a hotel, the Kildare, "replete with every convenience for the comfort of those who may favour it with their patronage." This is a building that has been adapted and altered for many uses over the years.

18. Police Station and lockup. Number 48. These are part of the Courthouse precinct.

VULCAN STREET

Vulcan Street which is part of the Princes Highway was named after the blacksmith's premises owned by James Gee which was at the river end of the street.



Vulcan Street 1911

19. The Bridge

This is the fourth bridge on this site. The first was built in 1876. The second opened in 1900 and but was destroyed in the 1945 floods. A “temporary” replacement was built with the present permanent bridge being built in 1966.

20. The Adelaide Hotel. Number 36-38

The Adelaide Hotel dates back to 1865, making it the oldest hotel still operating in Moruya. The building was rebuilt and expanded many times in its history, but it has always been called the Adelaide Hotel. The present building dates from 1916 with a number of major upgrades since.

21. Newsagent and Electrical Supplies. Number 42

This building remains as the only substantial timber commercial building in Moruya from the late 1880s period of commercial expansion in Moruya. This shop was originally a general store selling hardware, drapery and groceries with a residence above. The building was first owned by Michael Carew.

22. The Monarch Hotel. Number 50

The original hotel on this site was the Commercial which dated from 1866. It was rebuilt as the Monarch in 1939 taking its name from a Royal Navy battleship. It is noted for its Art Deco styled parapet above the street awning.

23. Bank of NSW (Café and shops). Number 59.

The Bank of NSW built this local granite building in 1883 as its bank and manager's residence. It Cost £2500, a very expensive building for those days.

24. The Courthouse

The court in the district was originally held in Broulee. It moved to a temporary location and then in January 1859 a new court house on the present site in Vulcan Street was completed. This was replaced by the Court House which still stands today. The foundation stone of the new building being laid in November 1879 and the building completed in 1881.

25. Shop. Number 60.

In 1905 John Emmott built this ornate structure and leased it to the Commercial Banking Company for £70 a year. In 1928 the bank bought it for £1140. It was again sold in 1953 and CWA opened a baby clinic in the building. It has proceeded to have a number of different retail uses in the following years.



26. Department Store. Number 64.

On this site stood the original “Beehive” store, the centre of the town’s commercial activity. It was founded in 1862 by Abraham Emmott who built the Moruya Museum building. The current building on the site dates from 1959. Abraham Emmott sold the business in 1927 but the new owners continued to trade under the Emmott name until the 1970’s when it became Fosseys, then Grace Brothers, then J.B. Youngs and then Allens and currently it is Harris Scarfe.

27. Shops. Numbers 68-72

Historically this building group represents the start of the developer-led expansion of Moruya's post-war retailing in the main commercial street. The building is inter-war Art Deco, brick with stucco to “Decco” parapet.

28. Silly Willys Discount Store. Number 78.

As the “Amusu” centre this building was for many years a cinema and dance hall. It was built in 1921.

29. The Air Raid Centre. Number 73.

The name comes from the events of 1943, when Keating’s Hotel on the site burnt down. To retain the licence, the bar reopened in the old stables at the back of the hotel. Because of Japanese submarine activity off the coast, blackout rules were in force, and the bar became known as the air raid shelter. The present building dates from 1958 with extensive additions in 1989.

Outside the Air Raid Centre you will find a carved **wooden statue** of Gus Winckel a member of the 18th Squadron Dutch East Indies Company which used Moruya Airport during WW11. This sculpture and others you will see throughout the town are by Bryan Carrick.

30. Sundial. 89 Vulcan Street (Outside Council Chambers)

This sundial was made by Joseph Ziegler, local stonemason, and donated to the public in 1867.

31. The Pink Gates (past the Council Chambers and Library)

The Pink Gates were originally at one of the two original entrances to the showground. These replica gates now mark a walk through the golf course to the showground. The present showground dates from 1914 having moved from its riverside location near the current bowling club site. The first show in 1879 was held on land at the corner of Murray and Evans Street.

DRIVING EAST OF THE TOWN

If you wish to drive East from the town, a drive down **South Head Road** will take you to Moruya Heads. On the headland you will find an old **cemetery** and the former **Moruya Pilot Station**. This is now a private residence, the last pilot left in 1953.



Moruya Pilot Station late 1880's

Alternatively **Crossing the bridge** and turning right along the northern bank of the river will take you to the site of the **Moruya Quarry**. The granite from the quarry was used for the Sydney Harbour Bridge Pylons and many Sydney buildings. You will find a picnic area and a rotunda with an historical display here. On the way you will pass an old rusting **barge**. This was used by the dredges when the river was regularly dredged to keep it navigable. This road will eventually take you to **Moruya Airport** which was the site of a busy RAAF base during WW11. The main task of the base was coastal surveillance.



The opening of Moruya Airport 1939



WEST OF THE TOWN

If you wish to walk further around the town you may like to continue walking along Campbell Street. You will notice that the residential section of the town is divided by the sports fields. This area was originally a lagoon noted for its black swan population. It remains a flood liable area today.

On the corner of Campbell and Evans Street you will find an excellent example of a Federation timber dwelling. Directly opposite in Campbell Street is a restored early cottage. Proceeding around the corner into Evans Street on your right you will see a number of early Moruya dwellings. At number 29 is the former Presbyterian Manse which was recently restored by the Sydneys Living Museums and now in private ownership.

If you continue to drive west along Campbell Street you will eventually leave the town area and cross the Moruya River at the Kiora Bridge. Kiora was once a flourishing settlement. The original estate was developed by John Hawdon whose home still remains today. It is on the north side of the road but well back from the road and not clearly visible.



This road leads up the Deua River Valley (this is the Moruya River but with a name change) to Araluen.



We hope you have enjoyed our town.



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