9. Newell Park

The park was named after Ernest Edward Newell who came to the district around 1903. He established the town's first Town Band, the first Fire Brigade and was Mayor in 1917. The Park was the original site of the cenotaph (constructed 1923) now located adjacent to the Civic Centre.
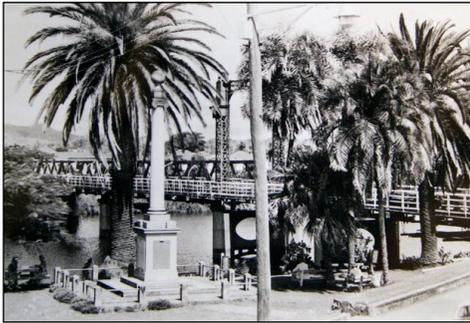
10. Budd Park

The area now known as Budd Park was once a combination of private dwellings and commercial premises, part of Murwillumbah's original thriving town centre. As the town progressively developed across the river, dwellings and businesses moved.

Remnants of the North Coast Steam Navigation Company wharf (visible on the bank) were uncovered in 2012-2013. Associated artefacts found in the river at the time (pictured) are on display at the Tweed Regional Museum Murwillumbah.

Murwillumbah Heritage

The site of the present town of Murwilumbah was surveyed by Surveyor Barling in December 1868. However the town was not gazetted until 1879. By 1888 there were 23 buildings in Murwillumbah including banks, shops and hotels, a police station, post office, court house and a Church of England. A regular boat passenger service between Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads operated from 1888, and a rail line from Lismore reached the town in 1894. The majority of buildings in the town centre were destroyed by a fire in 1907, but within a year the town had been rebuilt. The streetscape of the central business district of Murwillumbah today includes some buildings dating from the late nineteenth century and Federation periods, and is notable for the range of buildings that survived from the interwar period.

Heritage Walk map
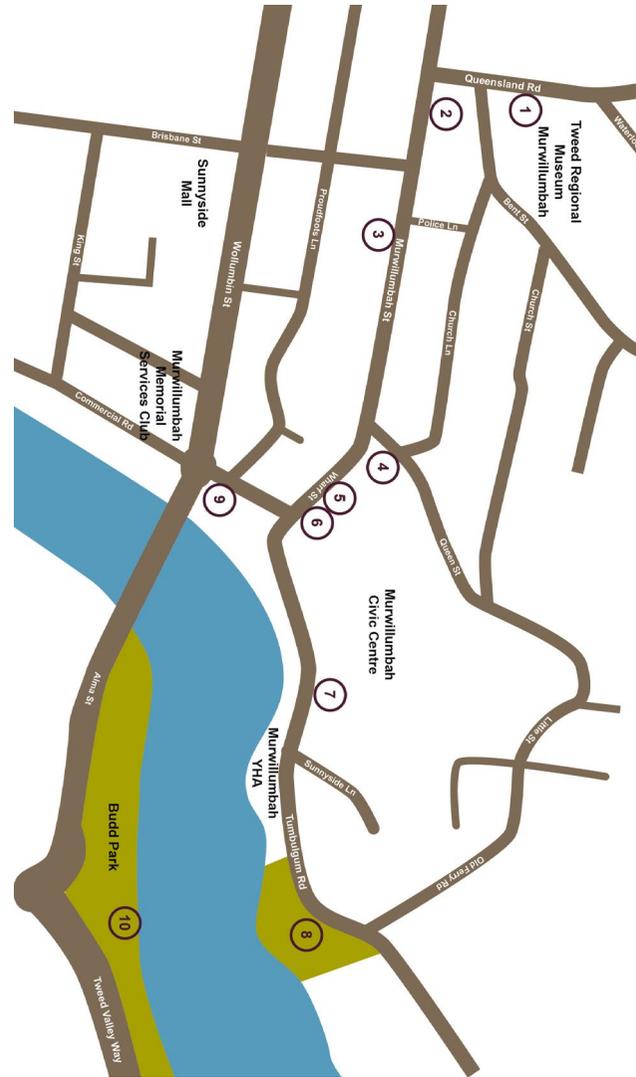
Murwillumbah Town Centre Heritage Walk

Pictorial guide and map
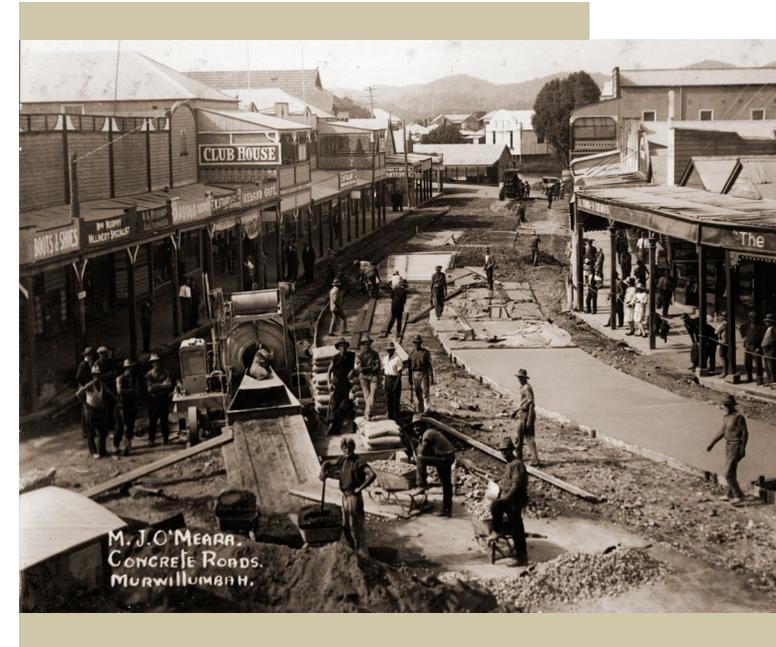
This walk through part of Murwillumbah town centre highlights locations along historic Main Street and on the Tweed River. There is the option to continue across the river to Budd Park and South Murwillumbah before finishing at the Tourist Information Centre on Tweed Valley Way.

The walk is an easy 1 - 1.5km (including the option to cross the river) and will take approximately half an hour. There are numerous shops and places to eat along the route.

Signs offering more information about each historic location are marked on the map.

Murwillumbah Historical Society

TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM

1. Tweed Regional Museum, Murwillumbah (incorporating original Shire Hall)

The Shire Council building constructed in 1915 (Foundation stone laying ceremony, 8 July 1915 pictured) is significant as the first local government building erected in the district. It remained Council headquarters until 1946 and since then has enjoyed various uses. Since 1988 it has housed a museum.

2. The Murwillumbah Fire of 1907

Sunday 15 September 1907 became known as 'Red Sunday'. A devastating fire destroyed 66 shops in the town centre. Fortunately no lives were lost. One of the most memorable photographs of the devastation (above) was taken from a position just near the current fire station.

3. Murwillumbah Court House

Designed by the Government Architect, Walter Vernon, a leading exponent of the Federation Style, the Court House was opened in 1909 as part of the related Police Station and offices. The building continues to be used for these purposes today. Two lamps (pictured), original features of the building, are displayed at the Tweed Regional Museum Murwillumbah.

4. Broadway

This bustling corner (see front cover image of laying of new concrete road in the 1920s) has long been a focus of Murwillumbah town centre.

5. Murwillumbah's first bank

The first bank to be established in Murwillumbah opened its doors as the Commercial Bank of Sydney in 1880.

6. Government Wharf

The Murwillumbah Government Wharf, situated at the end of Wharf Street, was the lifeline of Murwillumbah. One of many wharves on the river, it was a focus for important occasions, including the formal farewell to soldiers departing for Brisbane via Tweed Heads in 1915 (pictured).   Little remains today to mark its location other than the street and park to which it gave its name.

7. Murwillumbah Civic and Cultural Centre (site of the original Murwillumbah Powerhouse)

The Civic and Cultural Centre was opened in August 1975 by then Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam. It sits on part of the site previously occupied by the Murwillumbah power station which began operating in 1919.

The 'powerhouse whistle', installed in 1924, sounded across Murwillumbah multiple times each day and at times of emergency. The whistle (pictured) is currently displayed at the Tweed Regional Museum Murwillumbah.

8. First ferry crossing

The date of the establishment of the first ferry crossing is difficult to determine but a ferry was known to operate at this site in the late 1870s.

Eventually the ferry became too small and the first bridge across the river became a reality in 1901 (replaced by the current bridge in 1968). Businesses progressively moved to Main Street. The image above shows the ferry crossing toward what is now Nicholl Park, at the end of Old Ferry Road.