

~ WEE WAA ~ HISTORICAL WALK



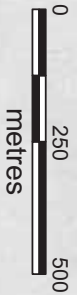
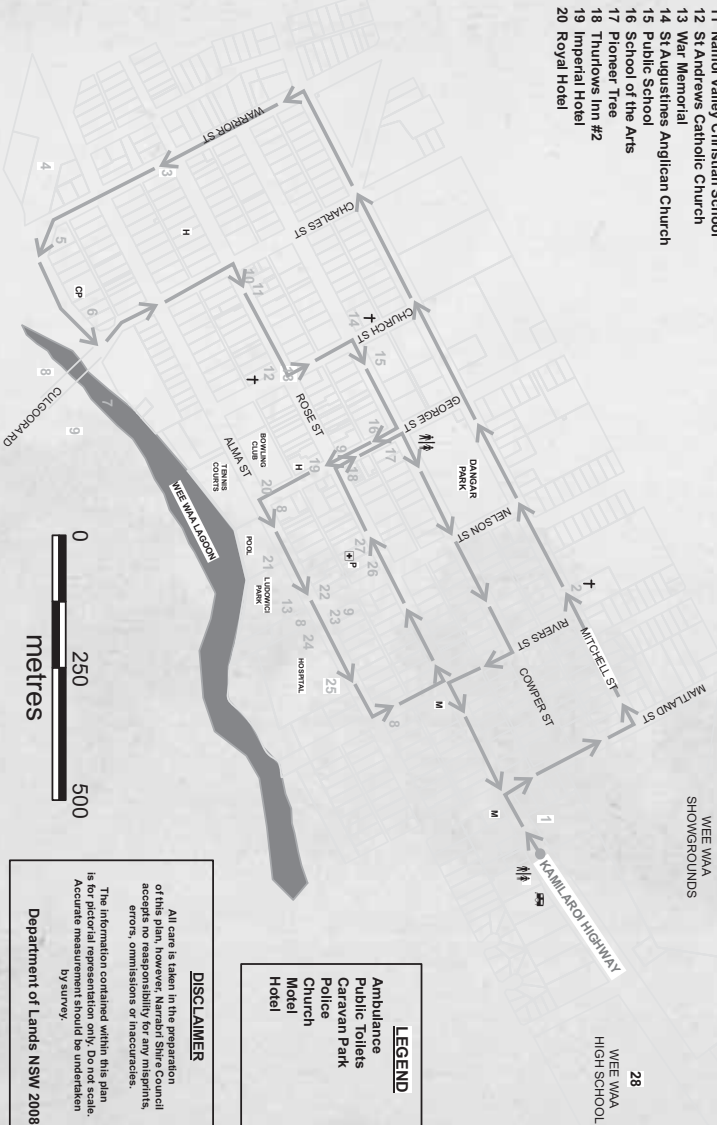
This guide has been produced by the Narrabri Shire Visitor Information Centre & The Wee Waa & District Historical Society.

Enjoy a gentle walk around the oldest town on the Namoi enjoying the Historical sites

Self Guided Historical Walk
Wee Waa and District Historical Society
P.O Box 516,
Wee Waa NSW 2388

WEE WAA HISTORICAL WALK

- 1 Schwagers Cottage
- 2 St Andrews Presbyterian Church
- 3 Albion Hotel
- 4 Railway Station
- 5 Foblers Inn
- 6 Thurows Inn
- 7 Lagoon
- 8 Cemetery
- 9 Post Office
- 10 Commercial Hotel
- 11 Namoi Valley Christian School
- 12 St Andrews Catholic Church
- 13 War Memorial
- 14 St Augustines Anglican Church
- 15 Public School
- 16 School of the Arts
- 17 Pioneer Tree
- 18 Thurows Inn #2
- 19 Imperial Hotel
- 20 Royal Hotel
- 21 Prince of Wales Hotel
- 22 O'Rourke's House
- 23 McFarlanes Inn
- 24 Mrs Penningtons Hostel
- 25 Public Hospital
- 26 Court House
- 27 Clubhouse
- 28 Wee Waa High School



| LEGEND | |
|--------|----------------|
| | Ambulance |
| | Public Toilets |
| | Caravan Park |
| | Police |
| | Church |
| | Motel |
| | Hotel |

DISCLAIMER

All care is taken in the preparation of this plan, however, Narrabri Shire Council accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies.

The information contained within this plan is for pictorial representation only. Do not scale. Accurate measurement should be undertaken by survey.

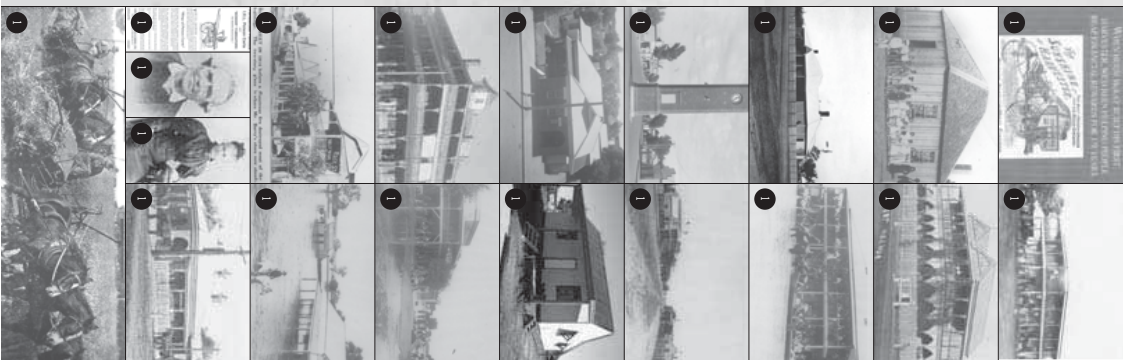
Department of Lands NSW 2008

The Narrabri Shire Visitor Information Centre Ph: 0267996760
Open

Some Wednesday and Sundays, Thursday 11-2pm, Friday 10-2pm, Saturday 10am-4pm Or by Appointment
• Coach Groups Welcome • Toilets • BBQ Facilities • Disabled Access • Parking

Namoi Echo Museum
Wee Waa and District Historical Society

Rose Street (P.O Box 516), Wee Waa NSW 2388
Secretary - Ph: 0267961760 Gillian Kahl



| NO. | SITE | LOCATION | HISTORY |
|-----|--|--|---|
| 1 | Schwagers Cottage | Namoi Echo Museum, Rose Street | The historic Cottage was built in 1880 as a sawmill's cottage at Schwagers sawmill. It was moved to Short Street to make way for the Railway. Schwagers sawmill employed many local people in Wee Waa. In 1997 the Wee Waa & District Historical Society acquired the Cottage, thanks to the generosity of Mr & Mrs Downey, and relocated it to the present site. |
| 2 | St Andrew's Presbyterian Church | Mitchell Street | The Andrew's Presbyterian Church was built in 1974. The original church at the rear of the building is now used as a hall and was relocated from Alma Street. |
| 3 | Albion Hotel | Corner of Alma and Warrior Streets | The Albion Hotel built by Mr W.B Smith in 1903 was situated near the railway line in Alma Street. At the time there were five hotels located throughout the township of Wee Waa. The hotel was destroyed by fire on 18 th May 1944. A temporary bar was established on the site this became known as the "Duck Inn, as the bar was covered by canvas. |
| 4 | Railway | Christy Street Opened in 1903 | The Railway arrived in Wee Waa in 1903; a photo exists taken in front of the Imperial Hotel of local community at the opening of the railway. Schwagers Cottage was located on the site of the railway and moved first to Short Street and recently relocated to the ground of the Namoi Echo Museum. |
| 5 | Potters Inn | Short Street- Western end | William Potter was granted a Publican's General License for his "public house" in December 1849; this was the first official business in the town of Wee Waa. The establishment was later relocated to the corner of Alma and Nelson's Sts. In the early days many publicans abandoned one slab hut to relocate and build another as the tracks changed throughout the towns. |
| 6 | Thurlow's Inn also known as Richard's Inn; originally the Victoria Hotel | Lot 4 Section 1 Short Street | In the early 1850's the Richard Inn was recorded as being located at the eastern end of Short Street. Both John Richards and William Potter had combined a general store with their public houses. In 1859 William Thurlow was officially listed as running this public house and thus became Thurlow's Inn. |
| 7 | Wee Waa Lagoon | Behind Short and Alma Streets | The lagoon supplied water for the early township and for the market gardens that dotted the shoreline. Located at the eastern end of Short Street was the site of the Aboriginal Bora ground or Corroboree area. In January 1910 flood, four people drowned whilst being ferried from the other side to town. They were James Grace and wife Alice Grace, Annie May Chapman and her daughter, Gladys Mary Chapman. Two marble plaques were erected under the trees at the Wee Waa Lagoon, but have since been lost. The family were buried in the Wee Waa cemetery. The lagoon Creek bridge was built in 1927 by Terence Wilson of Wee Waa. |
| 8 | Cemetery | First One on the corner of River and Alma Streets. Later, north eastern corner of George and Alma Streets. Also used for burials was the block on the eastern corner of Rivers and Alma Streets. | In the early days the old cemetery was located on the corner of George and Alma Streets. Approximately 16 burials were made in the town cemeteries including the McFarlane children. Many town families in the early days buried their loved ones in their backyard so they could protect and maintain the sites. The present Cemetery which is located on the Culgoora Road was fenced in 1865 by Charles Trindall. Among the first burials were Inkeeper - William Thurlow and the Minister Enoch Price. |
| 9 | Post Office 1859 | Eastern corner of Nelson Street near Alma Street. | The Post office was opened on the 1 st January 1849 with Mr George Mitchell Harper acting as the first postmaster. The next known address for the post office was at the corner of Nelson and Alma Streets, with Daniel Roche acting as the post master. The Wee Waa post office was relocated to Rose Street in 1888, major alterations and repairs were carried out in 1902 and a residence added in 1907. The brick Post office was built in 1910. |
| 10 | Commercial Hotel | NE Corner of Rose and Charles Streets | The Commercial Hotel was started by Mr William Gray, after he vacated the Prince of Wales Hotel in the 1880's. The hotel was later purchased by Mr Benjamin Harris and held until his death in 1903. Mr Harris had stock yards near the hotel which were used for local stock sales. He also owned a butchers shop in Rose Street. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1930. |
| 11 | Namoi Valley Christian School | Rose Street – site of the Commercial Hotel and Stock and Station agency | The Namoi Valley Christian School located in Rose Street, on a site previously occupied by a Stock and Station agent was first opened in 1983, a new building was erected in 2005. |
| 12 | St Andrew's Church | Rose Street | Situated in Rose Street the Catholic Church was erected in 1961/62. In 1909 the first Sister's of St Joseph arrived in the township of Wee Waa to establish a convent in Alma Street. The original two story convent was built by James Doherty in 1910. The convent operated as a house and boarding school. The convent was demolished in 1976. St Joseph Catholic School located in Alma Street, was officially opened in 1972. |
| 13 | War Memorial | Centre Rose Street/Church Street and Anzac Park Alma Street | The red square brick clock tower standing approximately 5 metres high War Memorial was formally dedicated in September 1938 to honour those who served in both World War One with 20 names of service personnel inscribed on marble plaques placed onto the brick on the memorial. The War memorial was built by local bricklayer Mr Walter Weaven of "Blackburn" Wee Waa. A row of jacaranda trees were planted in 1947 as a memorial to those who served in World War Two. The trees were planted in the centre of Rose and Church Streets, planted in the shape of a cross. The War Memorial Drinking Fountain was first placed near the Post Office and later relocated to Anzac Park (Alma Street) near the swimming pool. The memorial was constructed by Mr M.W Hardy and erected to preserve the memory of those who served in the Boer War from the district of Wee Waa. |
| | ANZ Bank | Rose Street | This was the site of the Namoi Shire Council headquarters built in 1906 and burnt down, as was much of this area, on December 14, 1926. |
| 14 | St Augustine's Anglican Church | Cowper & Church Streets | The St Augustine's Anglican Church was constructed on the corner of Church and Cowper Streets in 1896. The new church was built in 1985. |
| 15 | Public School | Cowper Street – between Church and George Streets | The first provisional school opened in 1870, the teacher being Mr E.S Panton. It was attended by 25 children. The first permanent school building was built in 1874, facing George Street. 1884 saw the erection of a larger building to accommodate the increased number of children. The public school was commenced in 1937 and has been added to and renovated over the years. A teacher's residence was completed in 1939. Over the years, the School rented additional buildings such as the CWA rooms and School of the Arts, to accommodate the increase in student numbers. |

| NO. | SITE | LOCATION | HISTORY |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 16 | School of the Arts | Corner of Cowper and George Streets | The original School of the Arts, a red brick building was built on this site in 1883. In 1906 a more substantial building was erected. This was declared unsafe in 1972 and was dismantled the same year. |
| 17 | Pioneer Tree | Cnr Cowper and George Streets | This Coolabah tree is thought to be 200 years old is of significant importance to the Kamilaroi people. The tree is a tribal totem to the Chiefs of the Kamilaroi tribe. It was dedicated in 1970, and a plaque placed on the tree, by Mrs Alice Radford of Merah North. At the age of 96 she was one of the districts' oldest inhabitants. |
| 18 | Thurlow's Inn (No 2) | Near Corner of George and Rose Streets | The corner of George and Rose Streets was the location of William Thurlow's second Inn located in the township. William Thurlow was one of the first to purchase land in the new town of Wee Waa in 1959. |
| 9 | Site of Post Office | | |
| 19 | Imperial Hotel | Rose Street | Mr J Selfe purchased the land on the corner of Rose and George Streets, the original old police paddock, to build the Imperial Hotel. The hotel built in March 1890 was originally two storeys. It burnt down in the huge fire of 1912. The new three storey Imperial Hotel was designed by J.F O'Conner of Inverell and built in 1912. |
| 20 | Royal Hotel formerly called The Victoria Hotel | Alma Street Frontage, corner of George. Formally called The Victoria Hotel. Renamed Royal by Charles Lilyman in 1873 | The Royal Hotel formerly known as the Victoria Hotel was built on the corner of George and Rose Streets, facing George Street in 1860. In 1873 the hotel was taken over by Charles Lilyman and renamed The Royal Hotel. In 1891-92 Andrew Hamilton rebuilt The Royal Hotel adding a second storey to it; the hotel was the first double storey hotel in Wee Waa with 18 rooms and a large balcony. Fire destroyed the hotel in 1903 along with Jewell's fruit and confectionery store, Mr Cormie's butcher shop, Copleston's old shop, and the Royal Billiard Rooms. |
| 8 | Site of Cemetery | Cnr of Alma and George Streets | |
| 21 | Prince of Wales Hotel | Site of the present swimming pool in Alma Street | The Prince of Wales Hotel was built before 1860 by local mailman Samuel Arndell; it was located in Alama Street – site of the Wee Waa swimming pool. The license was transferred to Jane McFarlane from 1866 and this hotel became principle hotel for Wee Waa under Jane McFarlane's proprietorship. The next proprietor, Mr W Doherty, pulled down the hotel and relocated it to Rose Street where the Scout Hall now sits. The new two storey hotel was named the Club House Hotel |
| 13 | War Memorial | | |
| 8 | Site of Cemetery | | |
| 22 | O'Rourke's House | Alma Street corner of Nelson | This is one of the original homes in Wee Waa. |
| 23 | McFarlane's Inn | Located on the corner of Nelson & Alma Streets | Daniel McFarlane was an early pioneer in the Merah area, arriving in about 1832. McFarlane's daughters married into the Hall family, pioneers from the Windsor district. |
| | Site of Post Office | | |
| 24 | Mrs Pennington Hostel | Opposite 27 O'Rourke's House | Mrs Pennington's Hostel for school children accommodated many of the country children of the district during the week days. |
| 25 | Public Hospital | Alma Street | The original Wee Waa Hospital burnt down in 1915; the second hospital was erected on the same site and redeveloped in 1975 to the Hospital as it is today. |
| 8 | Site of Cemetery | | |
| 26 | Court House | Rose Street | The original Court House situated in Alma Street between George and Church Streets, was built in 1849 and was one of the first buildings in the town. The present red brick Court House was built in 1880. Wee Waa was the centre of the original Police district for the lower Namoi Magistrates area until 1865 when moved to Narrabri. |
| 27 | Club House Hotel | Rose Street (where the Ambulance Station is today) | Mr W Doherty purchased The Prince of Wales Hotel and license, which he pulled down to construct the two storey hotel to be known as The Club House Hotel in 1896. The Club House Hotel was a two storey hotel containing 26 rooms, 2 brick chimneys and a small detached kitchen. The hotel was sold to Mrs Thompson who closed the hotel and sold the timber to Mr E.E Head of Pilliga. The hotel was dismantled in 1921 and erected in the township of Pilliga. The Club House Hotel was located on the site of the present Scout Hall and Ambulance Station. |
| 28. | Wee Waa High School | Rose Street and Purcell Avenue | The Wee Waa High School building was built in 1978 and opened in September 1978. |
| | Namoi Echo Newspaper | Established in March 1899 | The Namoi Echo Paper was started by JC Humphries in 1887. A Mr Brunnsden took over in 1899 and later it was renamed the Wee Waa Herald by Harold Campbell in 1929. It became known as the Namoi Valley Echo when owned by Mr Tom Brown. |
| | Population | Wee Waa – Official population - 100 60 – White 40 - Aborigines | In 1859 the population of Wee Waa was 100 with 60 people being European and 40 being Aboriginal. |

FAST FACTS

- * Wee Waa est. 1846
- * Aboriginal Tribal Group: Kamilaroi (pronounced Gumm-il-uh-rah-ee)
- * Aboriginal Meaning "Fire for Roasting" "Fire Stick" "Place for Fire" referring to the area used as a camp site by the local tribe.
- * Population: 1,800
- * Altitude: 190 m
- * Town of Windmills
- * Wee Waa is known as the Cotton Capital of Australia.
- * Wee Waa is renowned as the oldest settlement on the Namoi River.

