History of COOROY

Cooroy takes its name from the nearby mountain. The original spelling, *'Coorooey'* meaning possum, is derived from the language of the Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi people.

Prior to European settlement, thick rainforest and magnificent stands of tall timber covered the land.The timber industry was central to the settlement and development of Cooroy. In 1885, sawmillers Dath, Henderson and Co. owned 2046 hectares, stretching westwards from Mt Cooroy, including the current township area. The railway station became the district's focal point upon its completion in 1891, dispatching log timber and produce and receiving goods and mail. Early infrastructure in Cooroy was rudimentary and it was not until 1906 that J.L. Boden established the first store in the railway yard. The Queensland Government repurchased the area in 1907 and surveyed the land into agricultural farms and town lots.

The timber and dairy industries supported the town. Following the closure of the Butter Factory in 1975, land use gradually changed from farming to rural residential. The closure of the sawmill in 2000 ended an era for the town. The sites and buildings featured in Heritage Walk Cooroy reflect the history of the area.

Please allow an hour and a half to walk around the heritage sites of Cooroy.

If you enjoyed this heritage walk, you might also like to visit the Tewantin Heritage Walk and the Pomona Heritage Walk. Guides can be downloaded from the Noosa Library Service website.

Discover more about the region's history by visiting the following organisations:

Noosa Library Service Heritage Library
7 Wallace Drive
Noosaville Q 4566
(07) 5329 6555
www.libraries.noosa.qld.gov.au/heritage

Tewantin Historical Society/Parkyn Hut
Cnr Poinciana Avenue & Diyan Street
Tewantin Q 4565
(07) 5449 7353
www.parkynhut.com/index.html

Cooroy-Noosa Genealogical & Historical Research Group, Inc.
41 Miva Street
Cooroy Q 4563
(07) 5442 5570
www.genealogy-noosa.org.au

Noosa Museum
29 Factory Street
Pomona Q 4568
(07) 5485 1080
www.noosamuseum.org.au

COOROY
HERITAGE WALK

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES TEMPORARY PREMISES OPEN TUESDAY & FRIDAY

COOROY HERITAGE WALK

1 Fenwick's Sawmill
   Lower Mill Site, Mary River Road

2 Cooroy Butter Factory
   10 Maple Street

3 Blacksmith Shop
   12 Maple Street

4 Cooroy's Department Store
   18 Maple Street

5 Boden's Cooroy Store
   Corner Maple and Emerald Streets

6 Boden's Buildings
   Corner Maple and Emerald Streets

7 Bank of NSW
   36a Maple Street

8 Wimmers Cordial Factory
   3 Garnet Street

9 Hotel Victory
   38 Maple Street

10 Bakehouse amd Shop
    42 Maple Street

11 Cooroy Private Hospital
    50 Maple Street

12 Methodist Church
    51 Maple Street

13 Butcher/Lawnville School Building
    39 Maple Street

14 Police Station, Lockup, Residence and Stables
    35 Maple Street

15 Post Office
    33 Maple Street

16 School of Arts/Memorial Hall
    29 Maple Street

17 Ferguson's Auction Mart
    21 Maple Street

18 Cooroy West State School
    15 Maple Street

19 Railway Station
    Elm Street

20 Jarman Bros
    4 Diamond Street

21 Tinsmith and Plumbing Shop
    15 Diamond Street

22 Blacksmith Shop
    9 Diamond Street

23 Coronation Hall
    8/1 Diamond Street

24 Shire Chairman's home and Cooroy Hotel
    Corner Elm to 5 Diamond Street

1 Fenwick's Sawmill
Lower Mill Site, Mary River Road

This steam-operated mill, which originally traded as Canadian Saw Mills was established by the Fenwick Brothers and Robert Morrish in 1908. The sawmill closed in 2000. The Cooroy Lower Mill Site was redeveloped in 2006.

2 Cooroy Butter Factory
10 Maple Street

Built in 1915 by Wide Bay Co-operative Dairy Association Ltd, the timber butter factory building was replaced by the current brick building in 1930. It ceased trading in 1975 and was purchsed by Noosa Council in 1991 for community use.

3 Blacksmith Shop
12 Maple Street

Arthur Crees built and operated the blacksmith business here from 1920. The adjoining allotment was used as the holding yard for horses waiting to be shod. Owen Norton acquired the business in 1954 and continued until its closure in 1989.
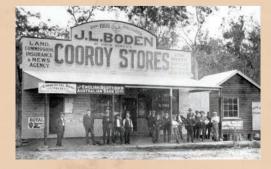
4 Cooroy's Department Store
18 Maple Street

The department store was originally built for Shamblers Ltd. Martin & Co purchased the business in 1920. It became Marryatt and MacKenzie's "Up to Date" Department Store in 1921.

5 Boden's Cooroy Store
Corner Maple and Emerald Streets

This building was constructed in 1909 for Cooroy's first store keeper, J.L. Boden. Boden's first small store was moved from the railway yard and added to the building. Later the Row family operated the general store for many years.

6 Boden's Buildings
Corner Maple and Emerald Streets

A double storey timber building was built at this site for J.L. Boden in 1911. When fire destroyed it and several other adjacent buildings in 1926, the present buildings in this block were erected. The ES&A Bank occupied the brick building.

7 Bank of NSW
36a Maple Street

In 1909, the Bank of New South Wales opened in the office of James Duke, manager of Dath, Henderson & Co., until J.L. Boden provided a new building. It was moved 30 metres down the street to this site when purchased by the bank in 1923.

8 Wimmers Cordial Factory
3 Garnet Street

In 1910, Franz Wimmer established his cordial factory on this site, in a building constructed by Hauville.
Wimmers is the oldest locally operated business in Cooroy.

9 Hotel Victory
38 Maple Street

The first Victory Hotel, originally called the Hotel Victory, was built in 1910 for S and H Jocumsen. A second storey was added in 1911. Adjacent was the Victory Hall, used for early Shire Council meetings and social events. Both buildings were destroyed by fire in 1955.

10 Bakehouse and Shop
42 Maple Street

Cooroy's first baker, Richard Lack, opened a bakehouse, shop and residence at this location in 1910. The owner, Alex Douglas, conducted his commission and real estate agency in one half of the building.

11 Cooroy Private Hospital
50 Maple Street

Dr Ellen Wood established a private hospital here in 1910. Matron Morrison, who operated the hospital from 1920 until the 1940s, named it St Margaret's Private Hospital. From 1959-1999 it was managed by the Noosa District Friendly Society.

12 Methodist Church
51 Maple Street

The Methodist congregation built the first church in Cooroy on this site in 1911. The present church was opened on 19 February 1949 and the former church is used as a hall.

13 Butcher/Lawnville School Building
39 Maple Street

J.G. Gray established a butcher shop here in 1909, which was later operated by C.W. Ross and Son. In 1940, dentist Mal Outridge moved the Lawnville School Building (1917-1938) to this site for use as a dental surgery.

14 Police Station, Lockup, Residence and Stables
35 Maple Street

This building was the original Police Station and residence erected in 1911. The lockup and stables were located in separate buildings in the yard.

15 Post Office
33 Maple Street

The Cooroy Post Office was opened at the Railway Station in 1892. It was then briefly housed in the original School of Arts. The current building opened in 1914. A telephone exchange was located within the building.

16 School of Arts/Memorial Hall
29 Maple Street

The School of Arts, built in 1910 for the proposed Noosa Council Chambers, was incorporated into the newly built Memorial Hall in 1926. The Cooroy community funded the construction of the Hall to honour the fallen of WWI.

17 Ferguson's Auction Mart
21 Maple Street

In 1922, W.I. Ferguson, a former Noosa Shire Council Chairman, relocated the former Gympie Stock Exchange building to this site for use as an Auction Mart. The building dates from 1893.

18 Cooroy West State School
15 Maple Street

This building was the Cooroy West State School from 1911 to 1962. It was relocated to this site in 1964, adjacent to Cooroy's first residence which was occupied by the Station Master.

19 Railway Station
Elm Street

The railway station was the hub of the original settlement of Cooroy. The railway line to Cooroy was opened in 1891. Log timber and produce was dispatched and goods and mail received. The railway also provided vital transport for people.

20 Jarman Bros
4 Diamond Street

Jarman Bros Hairdressers, Tobacconists, Stationers and Newsagents once occupied this building, which was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1926. They were agents for cars, trucks, and motorcycles and sold fuels and oils. There was a billiard room located behind the shop.

21 Tinsmith and Plumbing Shop
15 Diamond Street

Built around 1910, this building was used as a paint shop for the sulkies made by Phil Elder. It later housed Bretherton's Tinsmith and Plumbing business (1928–1929). Claude Owen then operated the plumbing business for many years.

22 Blacksmith Shop
9 Diamond Street

Phil Elder's blacksmith shop operated from this building which was built in 1911. The premises later became Kay's Garage.

23 Coronation Hall
8/1 Diamond Street

The Coronation Hall was built on this site in 1911 for Arthur Godwin, licensee of the Cooroy Hotel, to be used for community events. The hall was later used as a silent movie theatre, clothing store and by an undertaker. It was dismantled in 1936.

24 Shire Chairman's home and Cooroy Hotel
Corner Elm to 5 Diamond Street

Ian MacDonald, former Noosa Shire Chairman, lived here with his wife Veda from 1954 to 1980. The original 1908 Cooroy Hotel building was moved to the adjacent site in 1910.