

POMONA

A walk through history



The Pomona Hotel

Drawing courtesy artist John Newman, Cooran Art Gallery

Picturesque Pomona is recognised as Noosa's living heritage town. Nestled at the foot of Mt Cooroora, its charming timber houses, public buildings and village atmosphere make it an ideal place to while away an hour or two taking in its history.



Noosa Council has erected plaques on a number of Pomona's historic buildings. This brochure has been produced to provide more details about some of those sites. Its aim is to make your walk more informative and enjoyable. Allow a minimum of 1 hour for this walk.



The former Railway Hotel, Factory St

Sadly, the Railway Hotel no longer exists, but parts of it remain. Memory Lane Antiques, Pomona Produce and Pet Shop and Hollyhock Cottage and Nursery were built from materials which were saved when the hotel was demolished in 1965.

The Railway Hotel was the second hotel built in Pomona and commenced business on 5 April, 1911. It provided accommodation for commercial travellers who arrived by train, as well as local workers who lived temporarily in the town. In 1928 one such worker, an Italian, created a sensation when he stabbed to death a Chinese banana grower who also resided at the Hotel.

Another notable resident was the Australian author, Thea Astley. She was a teacher on the staff at the Pomona State School in 1948. She described the town and some of its people in her novel, *A Descant for Gossips*. Published in 1960, its themes cover the destructive effect ignorance and small town gossip has on the lives of individuals.

This brochure sponsored by

- Cooroora Historical Society Inc, with photographs from the Noosa Shire Museum collection
 - Pomona Progress, Art, Tourism Inc (www.pomonainc.org)
 - Cooroy Rag, the award winning local community newspaper
- The plaques, an initiative of Noosa Council's Community Arts and Heritage Board, were erected by Noosa Council

COOROY RAG



NOOSA COUNCIL

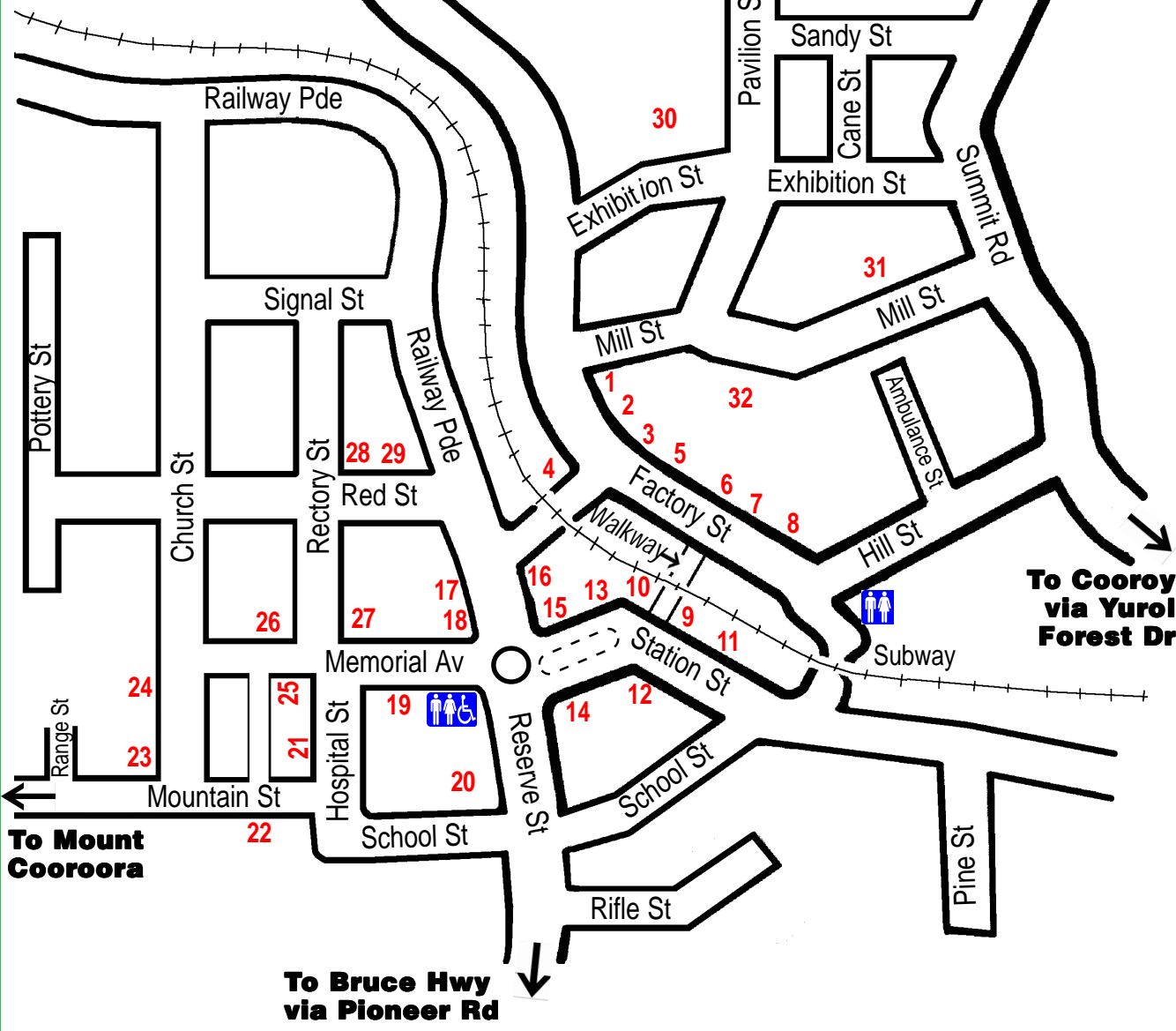
The Pomona Heritage Walk was devised by local historian Aline Gillespie. Aline died suddenly and unexpectedly on 3 February 2004. This brochure is based on her work and is dedicated to her memory.



**To Cooran,
Boreen Pt
& Kin Kin**

**To Futures
Centre**

**To Cooroora
College**



**To Cooroy
via Yurol
Forest Dr**

**To Mount
Cooroora**

**To Bruce Hwy
via Pioneer Rd**

The following buildings are identified by Heritage Walk plaques. Corresponding numbers are on the map.

1. Page Furnishings Pty Ltd, 31 Factory Street
2. The former Noosa Council Chambers, now Noosa Shire Museum, 29 Factory Street #
3. Pomona Uniting Church, 27 Factory Street
4. Pomona Butter Factory, incorporated into the Page Furniture Factory buildings in 1972. The original Butter Factory building is on the western side of Factory Street and is identifiable by its rusty corrugated iron roof. A shed used as an office and sales outlet by the Butter Factory is located at the rear of the Majestic Theatre (No 8 on the map).
5. Pomona Driveway, 19C Factory Street
6. The Old Railway Hotel, 9A & 9B Factory Street, now occupied by Memory Lane Antiques and Pomona Produce and Pets
7. The Old Railway Hotel, 9 Factory Street, now Hollyhock Cottage.
8. Majestic Theatre, 3 Factory Street - From here, walk back to the Railway Station and cross over the railway line #
9. Noosa and District Landcare, formerly the Pomona branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association.
10. Professional offices.
11. Old Pomona Railway Station Art Gallery, Station Street
12. Pomona Hotel, 1 Station Street #
13. Former Station Master's House, now the Pomona & District Community House, 1 Memorial Avenue
14. Memorial Avenue promenade of art deco shops.
15. The Rotunda, Cnr Reserve Street and Memorial Avenue
16. Pomona Memorial School Of Arts Hall, 6 Reserve Street
17. Pomona Ambulance Centre, 17 Reserve Street
18. Australia and New Zealand Bank, Cnr Reserve Street and Memorial Ave
19. Stan Topper Park, Reserve Street #
20. Noosa And District Kindergarten, formerly the State Primary School, in Stan Topper Park
21. Former Cooroora Private Hospital, 5 Hospital Street
22. Pomona Scout Group Hall, 2 Mountain Street
23. St Patrick's Church, Presbytery and School, 1 - 3 Church Street (no plaque)
24. The Old Nunnery, 5 Church Street
25. Former doctor's residence and surgery, 11 Hospital Street
26. Anglican Church and Rectory, Cnr Memorial Ave and Rectory Street
27. Pomona Post Office, Memorial Ave (no plaque)
28. Pomona Police Station, 22 Red Street #
29. Pomona Court House, 22 Red Street #
30. Noosa Showground and Pavilion, Cnr Pavilion and Exhibition Streets*
31. Edgar Alexander Edwards' home, 10 Mill Street.*
32. Cooroora Creek Park, Hill Street. This 7 hectares of parkland is a popular picnic spot. The pathway behind the Museum leads to the Island of Reconciliation and Gubbi Gubbi meeting place.

* Nos 30 and 31 are further from town and you may wish to drive to them

Further detail on following pages



The Majestic, drawn by Kees Pel about 1984

The Majestic Theatre

3 Factory St (No 8)

The internationally renowned Majestic Theatre is claimed to be the oldest authentic continuously operating silent movie theatre in the world. Built as the Majestic Hall about 1921 it was used for concerts, plays, dances, balls, sporting events and for showing silent movies. 'Talkies' were introduced in 1931, but in 1987 owners Ron and Mandy West decided to 'experiment' with a return to silent movies, which were enormously successful and have since been shown exclusively.

During World War II the Bruce Highway passed directly in front of the Majestic. When the troops stationed in the area booked the theatre out, irate locals, upset at missing out on their night at the 'flicks', demanded that the doors be left open. The result was that the highway was often completely blocked by movie fans. One enterprising Kin Kin resident took this one step further. He filled his truck with garden chairs, placed his customers in them, carted them about 15km over the range and parked in front of the doors, thereby only blocking half the highway!

The theatre contains numerous stage fittings, furniture and equipment from theatres which have closed down. The organ, still played at all performances, has been imported from overseas.

The Son of the Sheik, starring Rudolph Valentino is shown every Thursday night, and the theatre is open for group bookings by appointment (phone 5485 2330).



*Twenties favourite
Clara Bow*

The Noosa Shire Museum

29 Factory St (No 2)

The administrative history of Noosa Shire began here. Built in 1911 this building housed the Noosa Shire Council Chambers from 1911 until 1980. In 1929, the front verandah was enclosed and a new boardroom was added. In 1960 a new shire clerk's office was added with its own set of stairs. Downstairs a brick storeroom was built to house the Council's historic records and papers. Council moved to Tewantin in 1980. The building became the Noosa Shire Museum in 1985 and is operated by the Cooroora Historical Society Inc.

One room is dedicated to the original inhabitants of the Noosa Shire, the Gubbi Gubbi people. The remainder feature social history and industry exhibits. The society holds a wonderful collection of historic photographs, most of which can be reproduced for purchase. Opening hours are displayed on a sign at the front of the building.



*The opening of the first Noosa
Council Chambers, built in 1911*

The Pomona Hotel, 1 Station Street

The Pomona Hotel is one of the architectural treasures of the Sunshine Coast. The first Pomona hotel was built on this site in 1905, and commenced business in 1906. It was a single storey building containing nine bedrooms, a public bar, dining room and kitchen. It was destroyed by fire in 1913, and replaced by this elegant building. It has been altered over the years, but not extensively, and still retains the appearance of its earlier age, both internally and externally.

Many drawings of the Pomona Hotel have been done, One won an artistic merit award in a national 'Paint a Pub' competition held in 1981. The one in this brochure, by local artist John Newman, is available in prints for sale at the Old Pomona Railway Station Gallery.

Stan Topper Park (No 19)

Stan Topper was a well-respected school teacher who in 1983 was instrumental in revising what began as a bet and has now become an annual event - the Pomona King of the Mountain Festival. On the fourth Sunday in July runners from all over the world compete in this 'fun run'. Commencing at the roundabout near the ANZ Bank, approximately 50 competitors



run to the top of the mountain and back. In 1958 at the Railway Hotel, Bruce Samuels, a local railway porter & footballer, was challenged that he could not make the run in less than an hour. He did it in 40 minutes. The current (2004) record is 22 minutes 50 seconds, set by Graham Baralett of Brisbane over a decade ago. As part of the festival there are all day fun activities, a host of stalls and usually a fireworks display in the evening.

Police Station, Courthouse & Lockup

Red St, Nos 28 & 29

The house has been the residence of the police officer in charge since 1928. The police station is located in an office at the front of the house with its entrance at the side. The lockup was used as a temporary jail and is now a storeroom.

The Court House was built in 1934. Before then, cases were heard in the Memorial Hall. The Magistrate's Court moved to Noosa in 1987. This Court House still has a civil jurisdiction covering Cooran, Cooroy, Kin Kin, Pinbarren, Cootharaba and Tinbeerwah. It handles births, deaths and marriages, small debt claims, business name applications and pre-poll voting.



Pomona Courthouse . . . and the dreaded lock-up

Old Pomona Railway Station Art Gallery

10 Station St (No 11)



Railway workers at Pomona Station about 1927

The origins of Pomona are linked to the development of the railway. The North Coast line from Brisbane to Yandina was extended to Cooran via Pomona in 1891. Cooroora was the residents' first preference for the station's name. However, the Queensland Railway Department objected, claiming that with Cooroy and Cooran already in existence, another station beginning with Coo would be too confusing. Because it was primarily a fruit growing district at that time, the new station became known as Pomona after the Roman Goddess of Fruit.

By the late 1980s, the original railway station no longer met Queensland Rail's requirements for modern trains. A new "station" was built and the old buildings were closed down in 1991. The disused buildings were donated to the Pomona Chamber of Commerce Inc in December, 1997 and moved on to land purchased by Noosa Council. The buildings were refurbished in 2000, and commenced operation as The Old Pomona Railway Station Gallery, in 2001.

Now set in beautiful cottage gardens, the gallery opens Tuesday to Sunday, displaying a rich variety of local artists' & artisans' work. Art classes in various disciplines are often on offer. If you are interested in classes, exhibiting or volunteering you are most welcome to phone 5485 2950 or 5485 1988. The Pomona Visitor Information Centre opened at the Gallery in December

