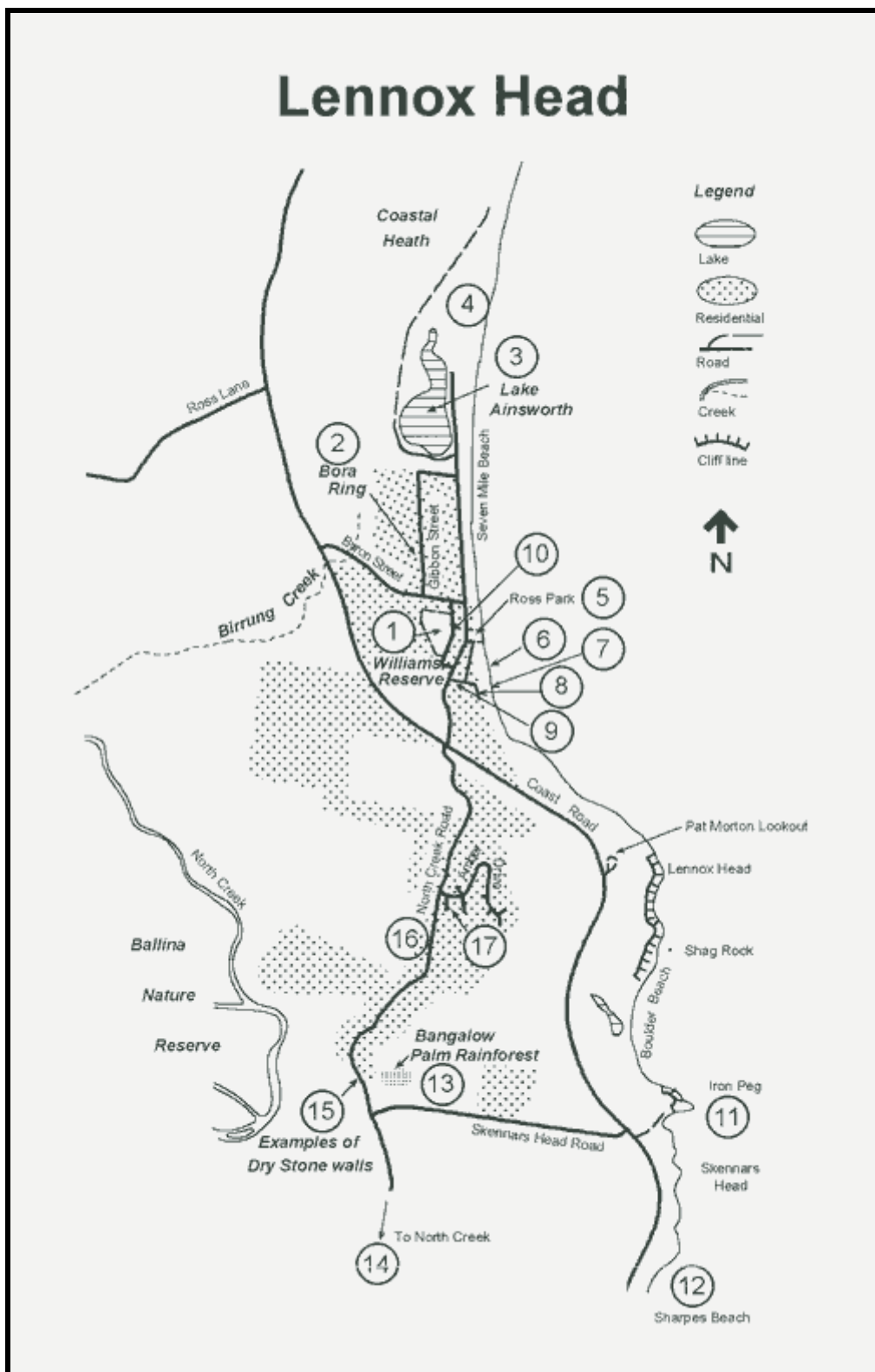


# Lennox Head Heritage Walk



The first 10 points of interest can be viewed via a comfortable walk around the village. Start your walk at Williams Reserve, behind the shops in Park Lane, and you will finish back in the main street.

### **1. The Williams Farm**

Lennox Head Public School and Williams Reserve are both situated on the original Williams Farm. As well as the littoral rainforest remnants and Cyprus pines that still exist, the area used to have macadamia trees (known as `bush nuts) that were popular with local children. The Williams Homestead was located on their dairy farm, where the Meadows Estate currently stands. The house now used for playgroup on Williams Reserve was originally a holiday cottage owned by Danny and Bess Byrnes, schoolteachers from Casino. This holiday cottage was originally located on Pacific Parade just north of where the Lennox Point Hotel currently stands.

### **2. Lennox Head Bora Ring**

The Lennox Head Bora Ring is an Aboriginal ceremonial site situated about 100m west of Gibbon Street, near Foster and Lennox Streets. The Bora Ring is a raised ring of sand, and is of significance to both local Aboriginal people, and to the whole Bundjalung peoples of northern NSW. In the 1940's there were four such Bora Rings in the area, three in the village proper.

### **3. Lake Ainsworth and the Diving Tower**

Lake Ainsworth was named after James Ainsworth, (1843-1924) who had a farm near Broken Head. Two diving towers have been built in Lake Ainsworth, although neither exist today. Both towers were built for the Council by long term Lennox Head resident Sydney Gibbon. The first was built in the 1940's, after World War II. It was constructed completely of tea tree poles. The second tower, constructed later, contained timber supplied by Council and had two timber platforms and a diving board. Later Council constructed a pontoon built from drums, which was anchored in the present swimming area. It remained there for several years, before being destroyed in the 1960's by cyclonic weather. The Lake was once separated from the sea by tall dunes (30 feet high in places), which extended all the way up to what is now Pacific Parade. Speed boats and water skiing were once allowed on the Lake.

### **4. National Fitness camp**

A National Fitness camp was established at Lake Ainsworth in the 1940's. The early buildings were discarded huts from the Evans Head Airforce Base, which had been closed. In the 1960's its name was changed to the Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Camp. It still exists and is now operated by the NSW Dept of Sport and Recreation.

### **5. Ross Park**

Now a popular gathering place for families in Lennox, the Ross Park area has a long history of communal use. A large dressing shed stood where the park is now. Nearby stood Mrs Mac's community hall (a site for local dances), built by James Webber and his Uncle George Lane in the early 1930's. The area also had a tennis court, built by Josh Cooper, who in addition, built several picnic shelters made of tea-tree poles and bark. Mrs Macintosh, who also owned the boarding house just north of the current Ross Park site, owned the hall and tennis courts. There was a cricket pitch between the tennis courts and the sea - for in those days there was a lot more land between the sea and the houses than there is today. Locals in those days called expanses of dune such as this `The Terrace'. A favourite game for children was to jump off a long wooden walkway, which jutted out over the rocky foreshore to beautiful deep white sand. Just north of Mrs Mac's property was the site where open air pictures were screened - the picture man would come with his truck loaded with chairs, screen and other equipment. The park is named after Councillor Tommy Ross, a Tintenbar Shire Councillor who owned a big farm out on Ross Lane, and later came to live in the village in Byron Street. He played an important role in obtaining a water supply for Lennox Head.

## **6. Tea Tree Fence**

In 1967 a series of cyclones had done enormous damage to Seven Mile Beach, and it seemed the sea may break over into Lake Ainsworth. A Lismore man, Bill Tresise, who had a holiday cottage in Lennox, developed an idea to build a tea-tree fence along the beachfront, to break the velocity of the waves. This became a whole of community project. Every Sunday for about 9 weeks, 100 men worked on the fence, while a women's catering committee kept them supplied with food and drink. While this particular fence is now out of sight under the sand, another and earlier example of a tea-tree fence (built by Fred Hutley), is visible at the southern end of the beach, in front of Rayner Lane.

## **7. Man-made Channels**

The rocky area of the sea from in front of the shops down to Allens Parade contains many clear channels. Holiday makers and early residents of Lennox Head manually moved rocks to create safe areas for swimming, fishing and boating. Long term residents know these channels by the following names:

- Coopers Channel - was also called Mrs Mac's channel. This is the channel situated near the front of Ross Park. See references to Mr Cooper and Mrs Mac in previous section on Ross Park.
- Langdon's channel - is now known as the Boat Channel. This channel was started by Digger White, who cleared it to a width of 1m. The channel was later expanded to twice its width by the Gibbon boys. The channel was fished almost daily by Bill Langdon, one of the few permanent residents in the early times.
- Bevan's channel - was made by Edna Bevan before the birth of her daughter (Jill Goodman). Both Edna and Jill were long term residents of Rayner Lane.
- Tresise Channel - was made by Bill Tresise and his family. See previous section on tea tree fence.



North Creek Bridge



Post Office Store 1946



Tea Tree Fence 1967

## **8. The Lagoon**

The area on the sea-side of what is now Allens Parade was once a freshwater lagoon. Its water was the same colour as Lake Ainsworth. The lagoon ran into the sea, and had a spring. In the 1960's, huge seas washed the dune into the entrance of the lagoon, and it was then filled in with sand taken from along the side of Byron Bay Road, to become a housing estate.

## **9. The United Sunday School Hall**

The building of the church hall that stands in Rutherford Street, Lennox Head was a whole of community project, which began in 1946 with a town meeting attended by about 70 people - almost the entire population at that time! The land in Rutherford Street was purchased, and an empty cottage from Teven was transported to the site. In 1950, after four years of fundraising and building by the Lennox Head community, the hall was ready for use, and an average of 50 children attended each Sunday. Community fundraising and volunteer efforts continued to make improvements to the hall over the subsequent years.

## **10. The Post Office and Other Early Shops**

- Charlie Roots had a Post Office and General Store built in 1927 and this is the large building in Ballina Street between Cafe de Mere and the current Post Office. After Charlie Roots the shop was owned by Allan Jones. There was a spearpoint pump out the front of Charlie's store, and it was from here people would collect their water supplies. There was also a petrol bowser in front of the store.
- Fred Hutley's shop, the first in the village, was on the corner of Rayner Lane adjacent to the now Ross Park. Fred later moved his shop to the corner of the Lane and Ballina Street.
- Where the Lennox Point Hotel currently stands was a shop run by the Forbes family. It was famous among local children for Mrs Forbes's hand churned ice cream. Riley's shop (groceries) operated there in the 1950's. Later it was owned by Fred Claven and then Jock Reid.
- In 1913 the North Creek Post Office was run from the Myers dairy farm on North Creek Road - in the area near the current southern entrance to Sandstone Crescent. George and Maud Myers ran the Post Office from 1913, for 50 years. In 1963 the business was passed to their son Pat.
- Mrs Knutsen's shop on the corner of Flying Fox Lane (now Skennars Head Road) and North Creek Road sold cordials, lollies, cigarettes and smallgoods, and travellers from the south would stop for a cordial after coming over the North Creek Bridge from Ballina.

***Points of interest 11 to 17 require a short drive from the village. Head south along the Coast Road to begin your tour, and you will finish in North Creek Road just south of the village.***

## **11. The Iron Peg**

Two fishermen were swept off the rocks at the point of Skennars Head (near Boulder Beach) in the late 1920's, and almost drowned. As a result of the near disaster, neighbouring residents installed an iron peg for fishermen to use to secure themselves. The peg has been replaced several times over the years as it has rusted away. The Iron Peg has become a Lennox landmark. The name has also been recognised as a geographical point, and appears on topographical maps.

## **12. Sharpes Beach**

This beach was named after brothers John and David Sharpe, who in about 1866 obtained adjoining pieces of land whose eastern boundary was the beach. The Sharpe homestead was called 'The Pines' because of the pine trees in the front yard. While the house no longer stands, the pines can still be seen today. The Sharpe family also had a sugar cane mill on their property. James Sharpe mined for gold on Sharpes beach, where the fresh spring runs into the sea, between the bushland and Flat Rock (known then as Sandy Cape). It was usual to see killer whales off Sharpes beach in the 1930's.

### **13. Bangalow Palm Stand/Flying Fox Lane**

Skennars Head Road was named Flying Fox Lane because the stand of Bangalow Palms, still present below the Tara Downs estate, was full of flying foxes. Charles and Florence Knutsen bought the farm on the corner of Flying Fox Lane and North Creek Road, which included the stand of Bangalow Palms, from Edward Henderson Snr. In the early 1900's, the Knutsen's planted the big fig tree that can still be seen on the corner. The road was re routed in the early 1960's to a more southerly position.

### **14. North Creek Bridge**

Lennox Head used to be connected to Ballina by a bridge over North Creek, which was built in 1906. Before this time, Charles Knutsen operated a ferry across North Creek for the Main Roads Department. The bridge was at the end of what is still called North Creek Road. The bridge was closed in 1970, after it became dangerous, and at low tide, wood from the bridge is visible. The road down to North Creek on the Ballina side of the bridge was made from masses of discarded oyster shells which were taken from an Aboriginal midden on the Lennox side of the creek. For the early settler families too, this part of North Creek was known as a wonderful oyster and crabbing spot.

### **15. Dry Stone Walls**

There are many dry stone walls remaining in Lennox Head, such as those seen on North Creek Road south of Tara Downs. The walls are built in the Scottish style and are the only remnants of the rural period still existing in the Lennox village. They were built by members of the Henderson family, who were assisted in their construction by Indian farm workers who were employed by many farming families in the late 1800's and early to mid 1900's. The walls were built from stone found locally, and they served as property boundaries and to contain stock.

### **16. Meaney Farm/Norfolk Pine Stand**

The Meaney Farm was on the very top of the hill on North Creek Road, and was opposite the current Sandstone Crescent area. A stand of Norfolk Pines planted on this hill still stands today, and is a significant landmark. Four of the pines are believed to be over 120 years old - having been planted in the late 1800's by Albert Hodgkinson, son of James Hodgkinson, the first settler at Lennox Head (1866). His father purchased the land for Albert in 1869 when Albert was 14 years old. The farm was sold in the early 1900's to Jack Meaney, and another dozen pines were planted in about 1934 by Jack McCleod, who worked for Meaney family. It is believed up to ten of these pines are alive today. The Meaney's barn was a popular dancing and social meeting place during the first World War and into the 1930's. After this time, Mrs Mac's Hall was built down in the village, and became the site for local social functions.

### **17. Moreton Bay Figs/Victor Place**

Constanza Hodgkinson planted the two Moreton Bay Figs still standing in the small park in Victor Place, after she built her house there in 1896 (several years before she married Thomas Stewart). Victor and Jane Johnson raised their family of four in this house on their dairy farm. The house was demolished in the early 1980's. Streets in that area are named for Constanza's family: Victor Place for her son-in law Victor, Jane Place for her daughter Florence Jane, and Loedna Place for her granddaughter's Lorna and Edna.

This heritage trail was produced by the Lennox Head Heritage Committee.

Please contact us at

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This download and interactive map were prepared by  
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