

## The Gateway to Gold

Commander Heath first surveyed Noosa River, up to Tewantin, in 1869 and it soon became a hive of industry with wharves, goods sheds, offices, stores and timber yards. Mr Clarendon Stuart chose the site for the town of Tewantin in 1870 and had it surveyed in May 1871.

Following the timber, Tewantin's major growth was to come from the movement of people and goods between Brisbane and the gold mining town of Gympie via the town of Tewantin. This was made possible by Hay's track, (as it was first known) and the paddle steamers.

Looking for new opportunities in 1870, Walter Hay blazed a trail from Tewantin to Gympie. After canvassing businesses for donations, Gympie Progress Association paid Walter Hay to build a rough track. The Government Works Department's surveyor then surveyed a road to the north of Hay's track, and Hay was contracted in mid-November 1871 to make this alternative route with eight labourers. When the Government Surveyor inspected the two routes in May 1873, he decided that Hay's choice was the shortest and most suitable, with a slight deviation of about three miles, and the construction of a bridge over Six Mile Creek. At the end of 1874, the Government Road Party took over the maintenance of the road from Walter Hay.

Part of the Sunshine Coast Motorway has been named Walter Hay Drive in honour of his memory.

During these early days horses and bullocks needed to be watered frequently between Tewantin and Gympie and thus it was important to know the distance to water or destinations. This explains many place names such as the Six Mile Creek (the main crossing being six miles from Gympie), the Five Mile Hotel and the Nine Mile stables, being five and nine miles respectively, from Tewantin on the Old Tewantin Road.

Many private coaches carried passengers and goods to Gympie. Rueben Webster, who had one eye and drove three horses (one in the shafts and one at each side in

outriggers) was the first of these, driving from Gympie to Tewantin from 1869 to about 1874. Coaches took from 6 to 10 hours to drive from Tewantin to Gympie, and stopped at the Cooran "Halfway Hotel" at lunchtime.



In 1891 the railway station was opened at Cooroy. People could then travel by rail to Cooroy from Brisbane, then by coach (at first horse-drawn, then by motor bus) to their holiday destination of Tewantin.

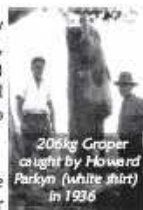
## Fishing

The fishing industry began with our early settlers (Keyser, Tedford, Gibson, Monks, Massoud, Ely, Burgess, Clarey and Ross) taking their fresh and smoked fish to sell to local hotels, boarding houses and to the miners at Gympie.

A great improvement was the establishment of an ice works by Arthur Finney in 1912.

Fish were transported by road to Cooroy Station, then by rail to the Fish Market in Brisbane in specially cooled wagons. From the early 1950s (after roads had improved) it was quicker to send fish to Brisbane by road transport.

A new Tewantin Fish Marketing Depot was built in Hilton Terrace in 1948. It closed in the early 1980s after a decline in catches and trawling bans and quotas were introduced. Most commercial trawlers moved to Tin Can Bay and other areas. Tewantin's main street (Poinciana Avenue) was once named Gooloi Street. The big fish story is relevant when you see the photograph (above) of the groper Howard Parkyn caught just in front of the old swimming baths – the fish weighed 206kg or 454 pounds and was caught in 1936.



## Blakesley Street

This street was named after one of the first European settlers in the area, Mr & Mrs Blakesley. With their son and daughter, they were in a party of cedar cutters from Mooloolo who formed a camp in the late 1860s/early 1870s. They may have come originally from Victoria and came to Noosa with the intention of getting cedar and shipping it to Melbourne. Mr Grainger Ward was also one of the first to settle at Tewantin permanently and he probably spent a considerable sum of money clearing the land.

Arthur Finney established the first ice works in 1912 in this street for the use of the professional fishermen and for domestic iceboxes.

## Pelican Street

Pelican Street was once the commercial centre of Tewantin. Along the side closest to the river were the Regency Café, Bickles Cabinet Making (later Sweet's Chemist now a Council office), "Woolumba", "San Elanda" guest house, the first store (where the Council Chambers are now) and then later the Bank. On the other side were the General Store and lighting, Bickles Hardware relocated, Sweet's chemist shop (relocated) and a newsagency. Howard Parkyns house (refer to site No.9) was next and then the Post Office. Around the corner the CWA was established in 1927 and then rebuilt in 1967 after a fire.



## Site of first Mary's Anglican Church (no. 20)

The first St. Mary's Anglican Church was rectangular in shape with an open roofed porch. Around 1945 a bell tower was added. The Church building is now part of the Fraser Coast Anglican College at Hervey Bay and the Hall is now part of the Masonic Lodge in Toolar Street.

## Parkyn House – 67 Donella Street (no. 21)

Often called "The Parkyn House" because the Parkyn family lived here from 1927 until 1985. This Queenlander was built in 1926 by Mr Lewis for Mrs Martin of Martins Hotel (refer to site No 22)

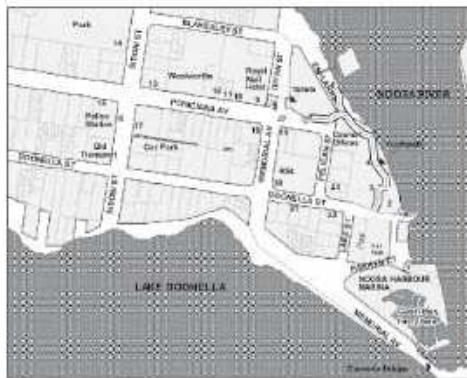
## The following sites form the Heritage Walk.

Corresponding numbers are on the map on the back of the page.

The names in brackets indicate buildings on site in 2007.

#Indicates those sites without a heritage walk plaque.

1. Parkyn's Boat Shed
2. Early Feasting and Shell Midden
3. "Woolumba" House (private home)
4. Riverview Guest House (Council chambers)
5. Dath Henderson Mill and Town Wharf
6. Tai's Jetty (Everglades & House boats)
7. RSL Memorial Park
8. Parkyn Hut (Information Centre)
9. Royal Mail Hotel
10. Silent Movie Theatre (Commonwealth Bank)
11. Butcher shop (Chemist shop)
12. Reads General Store (Ritchies Bakery)
13. Club Hotel (Auchenrach - private home)
14. Ward Park
15. First Bakers shop
16. First Police Station
17. First Hotel and unofficial post office
18. Commercial Hotel (Westpac Bank)
19. School of Arts (RSL)
20. # St Mary's Anglican Church (RSL carpark)
21. # Parkyn House (67 Doonella Street)
22. Martins Tewantin Hotel
23. FR Bickle & Son (Council office)



# TEWANTIN

## A Stroll Down Memory Lane



*Martins Tewantin Hotel, about 1930.  
Built around 1890 on the corner of Doonella & Lake Streets.  
The hotel had views of the Noosa River and Lake Doonella.*

“TEWANTIN”—DAU-WA-DHAN, meaning place of dead logs or trees.

This heritage walk will introduce you to our delightful country town on the river. Follow the numbered map and if you lose your way, ask the locals. Allow a minimum of 1 hour for this walk.



The Tewantin Heritage Walk was an initiative of the Noosa Cultural Board, funded by Noosa Council and developed in collaboration with the Tewantin Heritage & Historical Society Inc. The walk was officially opened on Oct 29, 2004

### The Gubbi Gubbi

The first inhabitants of Tewantin were the Gubbi Gubbi tribe of indigenous Australians who visited the area over thousands of years. A midden 9 m wide x 1 m high located adjacent to the Noosa River, just below the existing Council chambers, indicated the many seafood meals eaten. (Refer to site no 2)

The Gubbi Gubbi were of fine physical stature and one of the most densely populated tribes on the east coast. Their territory stretched from the Pine River in the south to the Johnson River just north of Maryborough.

At the time of European occupation of the Tewantin area the Gubbi Gubbi spokesperson was Barlow Crowe, who was given a breast plate inscribed “Tommy King of Noosa Weyba Cootharaba and Tumburrawa” by settlers. Tommy was a splendid Australian aborigine who could compete with any of the white timber getters in falling a big Kauri tree and did a lot of road making. When he became helpless, about 1910, he was taken by the authorities to the Barambah Settlement where he died.



*King Tommy of Noosa*



*King Brown & Sister*

The picture is of Brown who was once a Sergeant in the Native Police Force. He was befriended by, and worked for John Atkinson (living on the North Shore) and became very jealous when Tommy was given a breastplate. To keep the peace, Atkinson had a breastplate made for King Brown.

### Timber

The area's first settlers were timber cutters who camped where they were working which in the early 1860s was mostly around Wahpunga (near Kin Kin) and the lower reaches of Kin Kin Creek. They sought Red Cedar, Kauri, Hoop and Bunya Pine, also Beech along with many types of hardwood. As there were no roads, the timber was shipped to Brisbane by flat-bottomed paddle steamers. These craft became an important link in the transport chain between Brisbane and Gympie.

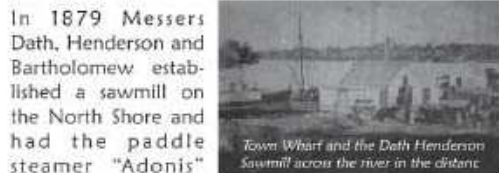


*Getting ready to raft logs down the Noosa River c 1910*



*The Adonis built 1883*

In about 1868 an old stern wheel steamer called the “Gneering” was used to transport some kauri logs from Tewantin to Brisbane. It got stuck on the bar going out and thus 8 to 9 logs were thrown overboard. The logs were split into palings and used to build a little hut that did duty as a Post Office in Tewantin (Refer to site No. 17) adjacent to the first hotel (Richardson's Pub).



*Town Wharf and the Dath Henderson Sawmill across the river in the distance*

In 1879 Messers Dath, Henderson and Bartholomew established a sawmill on the North Shore and had the paddle steamer “Adonis” built in 1883 to carry their timber to Brisbane (Refer to site No 5).