

# History of TEWANTIN

The traditional owners of this area, the Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi people, enjoyed abundant riches provided by the river system. The name Tewantin is believed to derive from a local Aboriginal word dauwadhum meaning ‘place of dead trees’.

European settlers arrived in the area in the 1860s, seeking soft and hardwood timbers. Paddle steamers, which carried logs, fish and oysters to Brisbane became an important form of transport. The Tewantin township was surveyed in 1871.

Tewantin grew with the movement of people and goods between Brisbane and the Gympie gold fields. Traveller numbers fell when the railway opened in 1891, but by then holiday-makers had discovered Tewantin’s appeal.

Fishing was an important industry in Tewantin. Early settlers sold fresh and smoked fish locally and to the Gympie miners. In 1929, real estate developer T.M. Burke built bridges across the Doonella Lake inlet and Weyba Creek, providing greater access to Noosaville and Noosa Heads.

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

If you enjoyed this heritage walk, you might also like to visit the Cooroy 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.genealogy-noosa.org.au)

Noosa Museum  
29 Factory Street  
Pomona Q 4568  
(07) 5485 1080  
[www.noosamuseum.org.au](http://www.noosamuseum.org.au)

The Noosa Shire Heritage Walks are managed by Noosa Council and supported by the Heritage Levy.  
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# TEWANTIN

# HERITAGE WALK



## TEWANTIN HERITAGE WALK



1 Parkyn’s Boat Shed Parkyn Court, Noosa Harbour Marina	6 Tait’s Jetty Esplanade Footpath	11 Read’s General Store 108 Poinciana Avenue	16 Richardson’s Hotel and Unofficial Post Office Facing Sidoni Street
2 Early Feasting and Shell Midden Doonella Street to Noosa Gallery	7 Parkyn Hut (Tourist & Heritage Information Centre) 120 Poinciana Avenue	12 Auchenraher House Corner Sidoni Street and Poinciana Avenue	17 Commercial Hotel 119 Poinciana Avenue
3 Woolumba House Esplanade Footpath	8 Royal Mail Hotel Corner of Poinciana Avenue and Diyan Street	13 Ward Park Sidoni Street	18 School of Arts (RSL) Memorial Drive
4 Riverview Guest House (now Noosa Regional Gallery) Esplanade Footpath	9 Silent Movie Theatre 114 Poinciana Avenue	14 Baker’s Shop 87 Poinciana Avenue	19 F.R. Bickle and Son (Council Office) 3 Pelican Street
5 Dath, Henderson & Bartholomew Mill and Town Wharf Esplanade Footpath	10 First Butcher Shop 112 Poinciana Avenue	15 Police Station Sidoni Street	20 Martin’s Tewantin Hotel 71 Doonella Street



**1 Parkyn’s Boat Shed**  
Noosa Harbour Marina

From 1925, Jack Parkyn ferried passengers up and down the river from his boat shed on this site. His sons Howard and Cloudsley continued to operate this popular boat hire business until 1967.



**2 Early Feasting and Shell Midden**  
Doonella Street to Noosa Gallery

Gubbi Gubbi/Kabi Kabi people feasted on the shellfish of the Noosa River, creating a large midden at this site. Midden shell was used as road base in the settlement’s early days. Aboriginal people contributed to Tewantin’s early development until they were later removed to Barambah (Cherbourg).



**3 Woolumba House**  
Esplanade Footpath

Alex and Alice Gibson built Woolumba House in 1924. Alex Gibson ran a boat building business from under the house and manually hauled the finished products to the nearby river shores. They named the house after Alice’s parents’ property on the North Shore.

**4 Riverview Guest House**  
Esplanade Footpath

Riverview Guest House was built by Mr Ede in 1906. It was renamed Elanda Guest House by new owner Mrs Dwyer in 1924. Eliza Donovan added a second story in 1936 and called it San Elanda Guest House, which flourished until it was destroyed by fire in 1957.



**5 Dath, Henderson & Bartholomew Mill and Town Wharf**  
Esplanade Footpath

Timber was the economic backbone of Tewantin. The wharf was a busy port for passengers en route to the Gympie goldfields and also with fish and oysters being dispatched to Brisbane. Dath, Henderson and Bartholomew’s sawmill on the North Shore was among the first to be established.



**6 Tait’s Jetty**  
Esplanade Footpath

Built in 1910, Charles Tait took mail from his jetty to Noosa Heads by boat until the opening of the Doonella and Weyba bridges in 1929. Passengers arriving by horse and carriage from Brisbane and Gympie were also ferried to their holiday accommodation down river.



**7 Parkyn Hut**  
120 Poinciana Avenue

Built in the 1890s, Parkyn Hut was moved from Gympie to Pelican Street in 1921. The Parkyns owned it from 1939 to 1999, using it as family guest accommodation and a cobbler’s shop. It was moved to this site in 2001 and serves as a tourist and heritage information centre.

**8 Royal Mail Hotel**  
Corner Poinciana Avenue and Diyan Street

Ned Murdoch, a former Cobb & Co. coach driver, built the original four-roomed hotel in 1882. The Hotel burnt down in 1939 and was replaced by the current building in 1941.



**9 Silent Movie Theatre**  
114 Poinciana Avenue

The first open air theatre operated here from the late 1800s. A bus depot was later constructed on the site and a new movie theatre, ‘The Mayfair’, was built across the road in 1936.



**10 First Butcher Shop**  
112 Poinciana Avenue

The first butcher was set up on this site in the 1880s to supply fresh meat to the growing township. During WWII, the building was condemned and rebuilt. It later burnt down. A new building on the site became the chemist.

**11 Read’s General Store**  
108 Poinciana Avenue

Read’s General Store was the first business to offer a wide variety of goods to local residents. It was constructed around 1878 from pit-sawn timber sourced from trees in Moorindil Street.



**12 Auchenraher House**  
Corner Sidoni Street and Poinciana Avenue

Tait’s Corner is the former site of Auchenraher House which was built in 1919 in the grounds of the Tivoli (later Club) Hotel. It was the home of Charles and Emma (nee Duke) Tait. Emma was the daughter of James Duke, first Chairman of the Noosa Shire Council. Auchenraher was gifted to Council by Esme Duke Tait in 2004 to be used as a community space. The house was re-located to Earl Street, Tewantin in 2015 and is now known as Tait-Duke Community Cottage.

**13 Ward Park**  
Sidoni Street

Grainger Ward was one of the first Europeans to select land in the area. His property included much of what is now the commercial area of Tewantin. He later relinquished this land and his next selection was known as Ward’s Estate. Ward Park and Ward Street are also named after him.

**14 Baker’s Shop**  
87 Poinciana Avenue

The bakery was built on this site by the townspeople, and Scotsman Andrew Campbell was Tewantin’s first baker. Andrew’s wife Mary was a skilled seamstress, milliner and midwife.

**15 Police Station**  
Sidoni Street

Tenders to build Noosa’s first police station at Tewantin were sought through the Gympie Times in January 1875. A modest station and lockup were erected shortly after. The facility was renamed Tewantin Police Station in 1898. A new facility was built around the corner on Poinciana Avenue in 1936.

**16 Richardson’s Hotel and Unofficial Post Office**  
Facing Sidoni Street

Built around 1868, Richardson’s Hotel was the town’s first guesthouse. The shingle-roofed building contained a bar, two parlours and three bedrooms, with a kitchen and servants’ quarters near the stables. An adjacent hut served as the post office until 1872.

**17 Commercial Hotel**  
119 Poinciana Avenue

The Commercial Hotel opened in 1892 and was one of four hotels in Tewantin at the time. The elegant, two-storey timber structure burnt down in 1889 and was not rebuilt.

**18 School of Arts**  
Memorial Drive

Built in 1920, the School of Arts later became the RSL Memorial Hall and School of Arts. The flooring was replaced in the 1940s with timber from the adjacent hall, after Martin’s Hotel was destroyed by fire. The School of Arts was destroyed by fire in 1967.



**19 F.R. Bickle and Son**  
3 Pelican Street

A cabinet and joinery business was established on this site in 1928. The family later built Bickle’s Hardware across the street. The first Tewantin pharmacy then took tenancy of this building.



**20 Martin’s Tewantin Hotel**  
71 Doonella Street

The original four-roomed, two-storey hotel built on this site by Dan Martin was later extended into a grand accommodation house, with dining and bar facilities downstairs and twenty guest rooms above. It burnt down in 1940.

