

Lambie Town Walk

The walk was designed and constructed by the Goulburn Lands Office in 1985 & consists of 5kms easy walking. It includes three Heritage Areas recognised by the National Trust:


THE COURT HOUSE precinct, built in the 1860s

LAMBIE STREET, the first commercial centre of Cooma.

CHURCH HILL, with examples of nineteenth & twentieth century religious & educational buildings.

1. Centennial Park [1890]

Originally a swamp, this area was reclaimed and developed as an enclosed park with a bandstand in the centre. During WWII slit trenches were dug in case of air-raids and the present open park dates from the 1950s. Begin your walk at the Man from Snowy River statue beside The Visitors' Centre, take in the Avenue of Flags representing the nations of the Snowy Scheme workers and the Mosaic Time Walk undertaken in 1988 by the Cooma Monaro Historical Society.

 At the end of the park turn left on Massie Street and continue one block to Vale Street.

Court House District

The Court House Precinct developed rapidly in the early 1860s following the discovery of gold at Kiandra and the resulting increase in business and population.

2/3. Solomon's Store and The Cooma Hotel [1862]

The general store [now Mitre 10] and the hotel opposite were built according to the specifications of Charles Solomon. The store has been remodelled internally but retains the original stained glass and coloured tiles.

 From here, turn right into Vale Street.

4. Cenotaph

In the centre of this wide, divided street sits the Cenotaph. The foundation stone (originally from Coolringdon) honouring WWI soldiers was laid in 1921, structure completed in 1926, with the additional names for WWII added in 1987. The Ernest Corey Memorial was unveiled in 1996, and the Monaghan Hayes Memorial at the rear of the Cenotaph honours the first local soldier to die in WWI.

5. Cooma Post Office [1872]


This imposing building, constructed by John Harris in the Italianate style, sits on what was once the main thoroughfare of Cooma and indicates the importance of postal communications in the then isolated rural community. Colonial Architect, James Barnet, designed Cooma Post Office, Cooma Court House and the Cooma Gaol.

6. Cooma Court House [1886]

Constructed of granite gneiss - a local soft stone easily cut into blocks with a smooth ashlar finish - its imposing facade reflects the seriousness of its function at a time when other major centres were several days travel away. It is an example of the Victorian Mannerist style, and retains its interior cedar fittings.


7. Cooma Gaol [1870s]

The building originally housed up to 98 inmates, reputedly cost eleven thousand pounds to build, and was supervised by one gaoler and two assistants. It later became an insane asylum, and still later a secure store for materials used in the construction of the Snowy Scheme. From 1957 until the mid 1990s it again operated as a prison, but was closed until 2001 when it reopened as a medium/minimum security centre housing an average of 120 prisoners.

 Turn left into Barrack Street, heading to the Nijong Reserve.

8. Nijong Reserve & Kerwan's Inn

Originally swampland, the present reserve was reclaimed as market gardens by Chinese immigrants in the late 1800s. This was part of the original route into Cooma which crossed Cooma Back Creek. Kerwan's Inn on the other side of the creek was the first place of accommodation in the town.

 Cross the footbridge and turn left into Vulcan St, then left again into Lambie Street.

Lambie Street District

The Lambie Street District was the original heart of Cooma and was named for John Lambie, Commissioner for Crown Lands on the Monaro during the 1840s. A design plan for the Village of Cooma [1849] gradually led to development further north around Centennial Park.

9. Number 7 Lambie St - Camden Cottage

Built of large locally-made bricks unique to Cooma, and marked J.H. by the builder, Joseph Hain. The cottage was lived in by George Mould, a physician from Dublin, who offered free medical services.

10. Number 9 Lambie St - Raglan Gallery & Cultural Centre [1854]

Built as a licenced hotel for James Hain, and featuring half-metre thick walls of local granite gneiss, the inn was the scene of tragedy the night before opening. William Hain was sleeping in a newly-painted room and had lit a fire in a bucket to quickly dry the paint, but was overcome by the deadly fumes. Since then the inn, originally called

11. Number 19 Lambie St [1885]

A stylish house, built for Frederick Hain, son of Joseph. It later became the home of Mr Ryrie, an Honorary Magistrate assisting Mr Lambie.

12. Number 20 Lambie St

This house was constructed by a skilled English stonemason for Joseph Hain's daughter, Mrs Rose, and remains in good condition. The large remodelled garden has received several awards in recent times.

13. Number 23 Lambie St

A Joseph Hain construction, it was first tenanted by journalist Gustave Miller, who worked on the Monaro Mercury before establishing the Cooma-Monaro Express [our current newspaper].

14. Number 30 Lambie St

Another Joseph Hain building. Two storey brick with local granite foundations.

15. Number 32 Lambie St [1884]

James Mawson fired bricks in his Tumut Street kiln for use in this building. The diamond effect on the outside walls was an accident, but he was impressed and used it on other parts of the building as well.

16. Number 39 - 41 Lambie St [1886]

Semi-detached dwellings built by James Mawson for his family. The attention to detail and decorative gables reflect the growing prosperity of the area.

17. Number 47 - 49 Lambie St [1865]

Thought to have been built by J.J. Mawson for Samson Hain (son of James) in 1865. Mawson added a second storey in 1881. This addition is best viewed from the adjacent laneway.

18. Number 51 - 53 Lambie St [1880]


Built by Mawson for his family and featuring extra large bricks of the era.

19. Number 55 Lambie St [1855]

Built by James Hain and family, this home was occupied for many years by Dr Merryweather, who began his medical practice there.


20. Number 59 Lambie St - The Royal Hotel [1858]

Built by James Hain, the hotel's first stage comprised of the bar and two dining rooms (first and second class). Later additions included a ball room, several bedrooms and a residence for the family. Fire resistant iron roofing was also used. The wide verandahs and decorative gables were added in 1902 and were the only street verandahs to survive the demolition orders of the 1950s.

 Leaving Lambie Street, cross Sharp Street towards the Hain Centre and turn left, proceeding over Cooma Back Creek to the corner of Boundary Street.

21. Southern Cloud Memorial

This commemorates the captain, crew, and passengers who were lost in the Southern Cloud air crash of 1931. The wreckage was found by a Snowy worker, Tom Sonter, in 1958 in Kosciuszko National Park and pieces of the engine were incorporated in the Memorial by Cooma Lions Club.

 From here turn right into Boundary Street and then left into Commissioner Street, taking you up to Church Hill. There are a few steps to climb on the way.

Church District

Cooma's first church was built several kilometres out of town and other early churches appeared in Bombala Street but were moved to their present locations when the original sites proved inconvenient for congregations. In the present Church Precinct we have...

22. St Paul's Anglican Church [1865]


Built by Mawson, Potter and Scarlett, the church is constructed of local granite and alpine ash with furnishings of English cedar, and fine stained glass windows. The spire was added in 1891.

23. St Andrew's Uniting Church [1880]

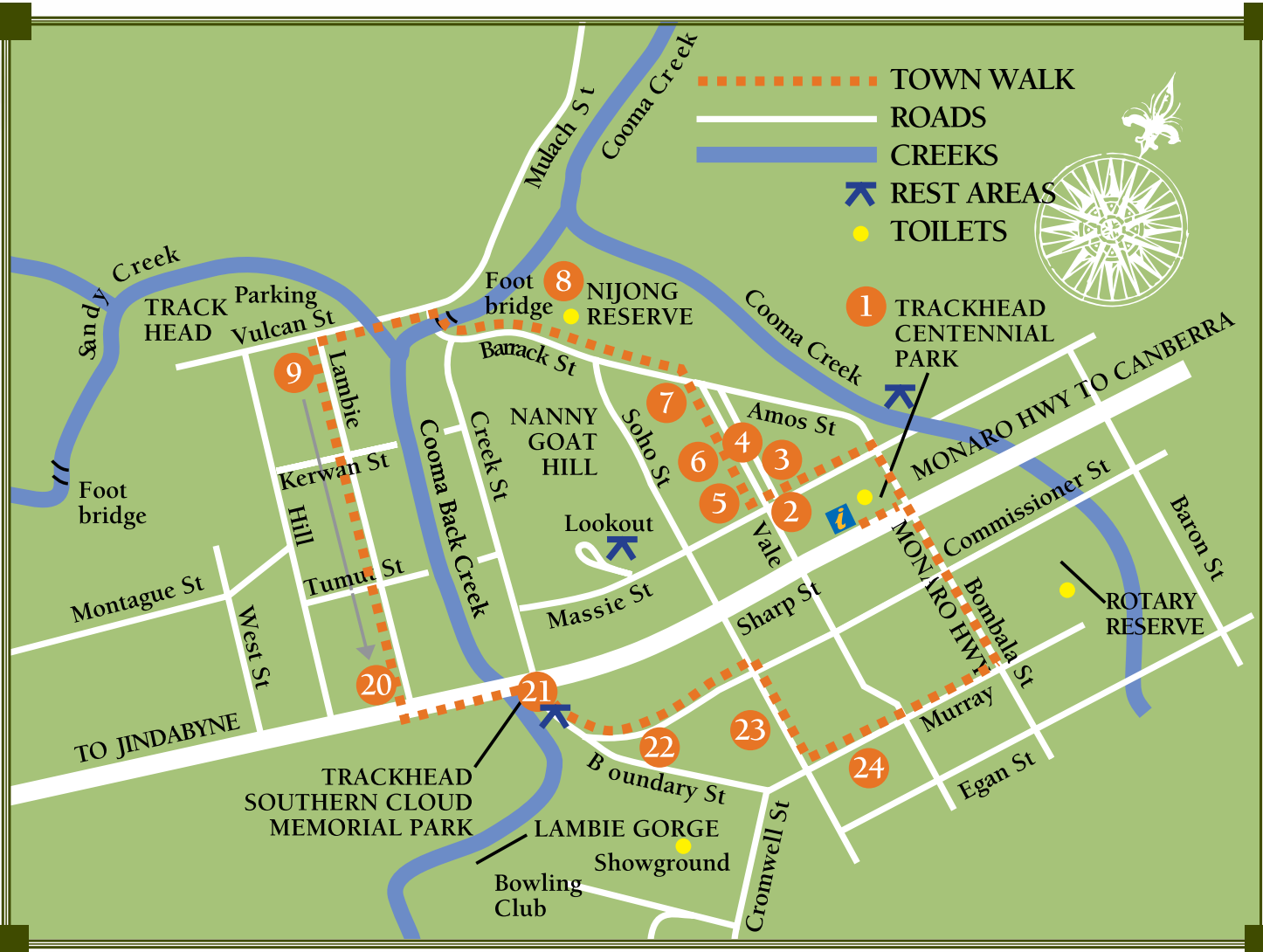
When the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists amalgamated in 1977, St Andrew's became their home.

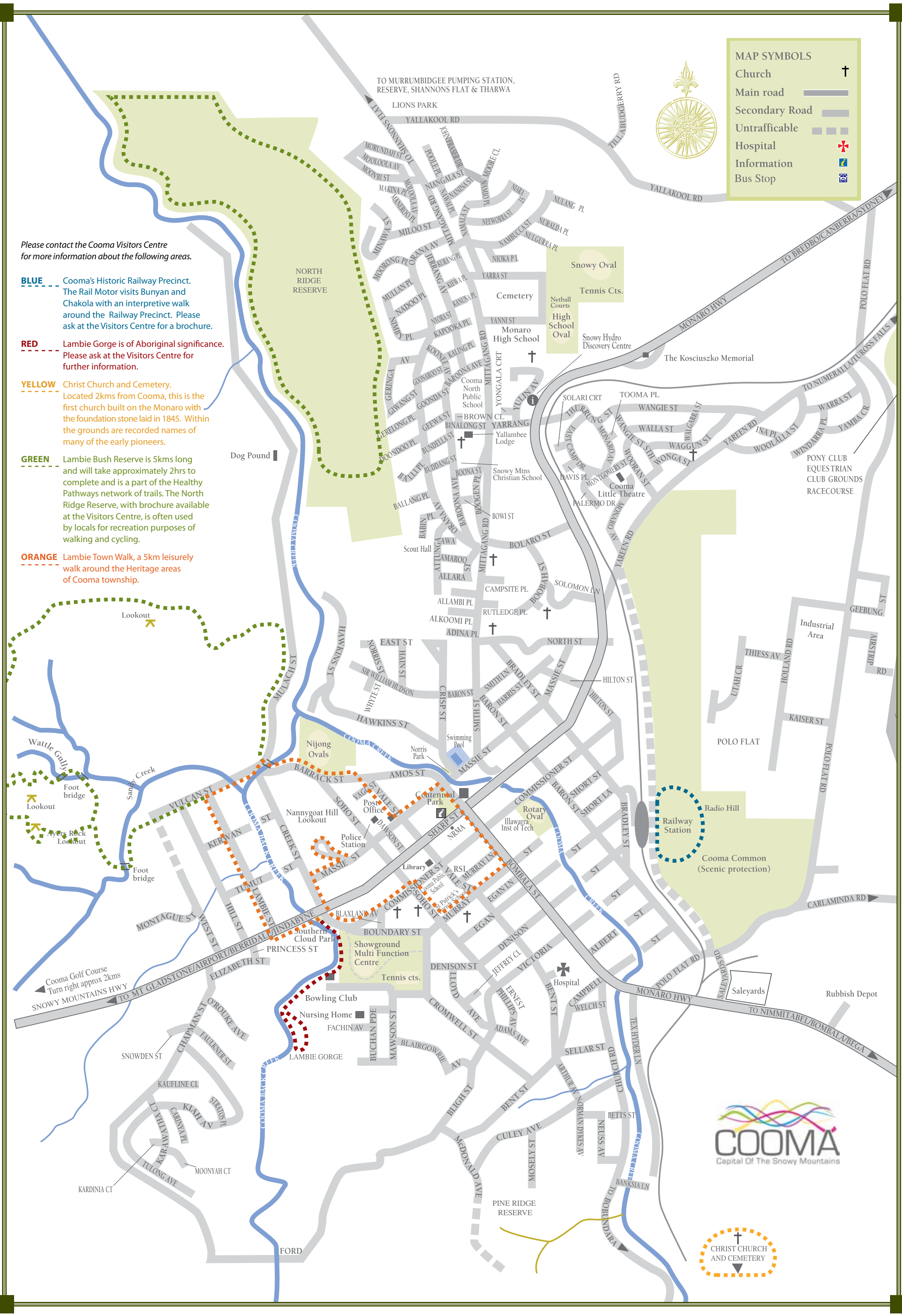
24. St Patrick's Catholic Church [1873]

The Caledonian style church, reminiscent of Scotland and Ireland, was built first and followed by the Rustic/Gothic style presbytery in 1878. The Brigidine Convent [now St Patrick's High School] was completed in 1884 and became the somewhat spartan home of the Brigidine sisters. The school, known as St Thomas' School, was conducted in the convent until 1929 when it was moved and renamed St Patrick's School.

 From the Catholic Church continue down the hill to Bombala Street and turn left to complete the Town Walk at Centennial Park.

St Patrick's Catholic Church
Illustrations by Andrew Dawes





Please contact the Cooma Visitors Centre for more information about the following areas.

BLUE Cooma's Historic Railway Precinct. The Rail Motor visits Bunyan and Chakola with an interpretive walk around the Railway Precinct. Please ask at the Visitors Centre for a brochure.

RED Lambie Gorge is of Aboriginal significance. Please ask at the Visitors Centre for further information.

YELLOW Christ Church and Cemetery. Located 2kms from Cooma, this is the first church built on the Monaro with the foundation stone laid in 1845. Within the grounds are recorded names of many of the early pioneers.

GREEN Lambie Bush Reserve is 5kms long and will take approximately 2hrs to complete and is a part of the Healthy Pathways network of trails. The North Ridge Reserve, with brochure available at the Visitors Centre, is often used by locals for recreation purposes of walking and cycling.

ORANGE Lambie Town Walk, a 5km leisurely walk around the Heritage areas of Cooma township.

Before European settlement, Aboriginal people lived on the Monaro for more than 20,000 years. They roamed widely and had complex interrelationships between tribes. The main group was the Ngarigo who moved in and out of the region according to the seasons.

In 1823, explorers Currie and Ovens met with members of the Ngarigo group who described extensive treeless downs in the south they called the area "Monaroo". In 1827 cattle were brought from Sydney and the area quickly became popular with settlers. The Aboriginal name "Kuma" was changed to Cooma by William Bradley and used for his 19,000 acre run. The village of Cooma was surveyed in 1849.

Discovery of gold in the 1860s at Kiandra brought a permanent increase in Cooma's population, and the railway opened in 1889. Cooma was booming and prosperous and by 1900 the town boasted its "Regional Capital" status with many grand official buildings.

The start of the Snowy Scheme in 1949 changed the character of Cooma dramatically with the influx of many thousands of workers from post war Europe. These influences have made Cooma a town with a rich culture.

With snow sports starting in Kiandra in 1861 and spreading quickly throughout the region, Tourism has become our driving industry.

We welcome you to wander, explore, discover and enjoy Cooma's Rich History.

discover

Cooma's rich history

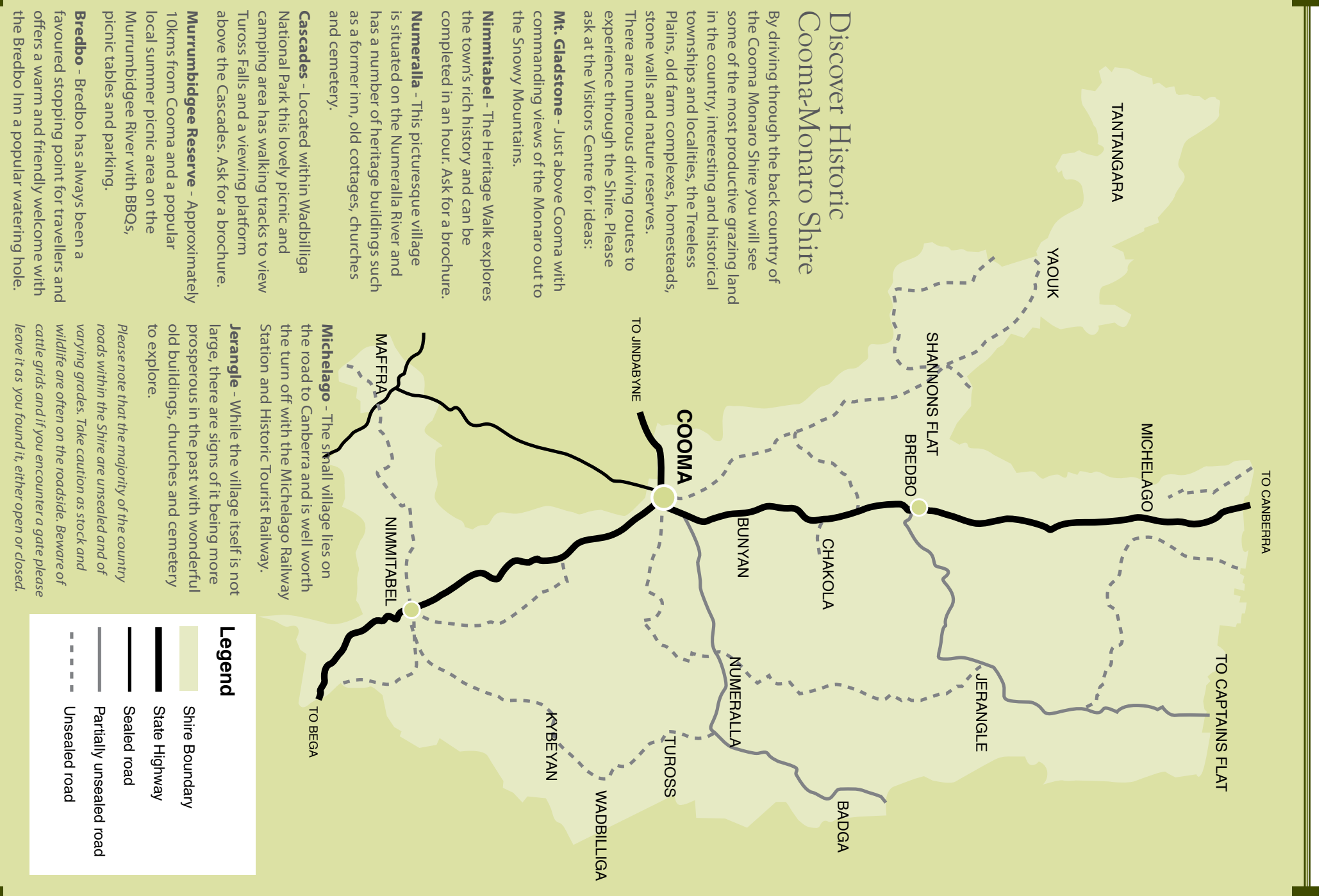


Cooma Visitors Centre
www.visitcooma.com.au



BROCHURE FUNDED BY COOMA-MONARO SHIRE COUNCIL
All information was correct at the time of printing (February 2014) and may change without notice.

1800 636 525



Discover Historic Cooma-Monaro Shire

By driving through the back country of the Cooma Monaro Shire you will see some of the most productive grazing land in the country, interesting and historical townships and localities, the Treeless Plains, old farm complexes, homesteads, stone walls and nature reserves. There are numerous driving routes to experience through the Shire. Please ask at the Visitors Centre for ideas:

Mt. Gladstone - Just above Cooma with commanding views of the Monaro out to the Snowy Mountains.

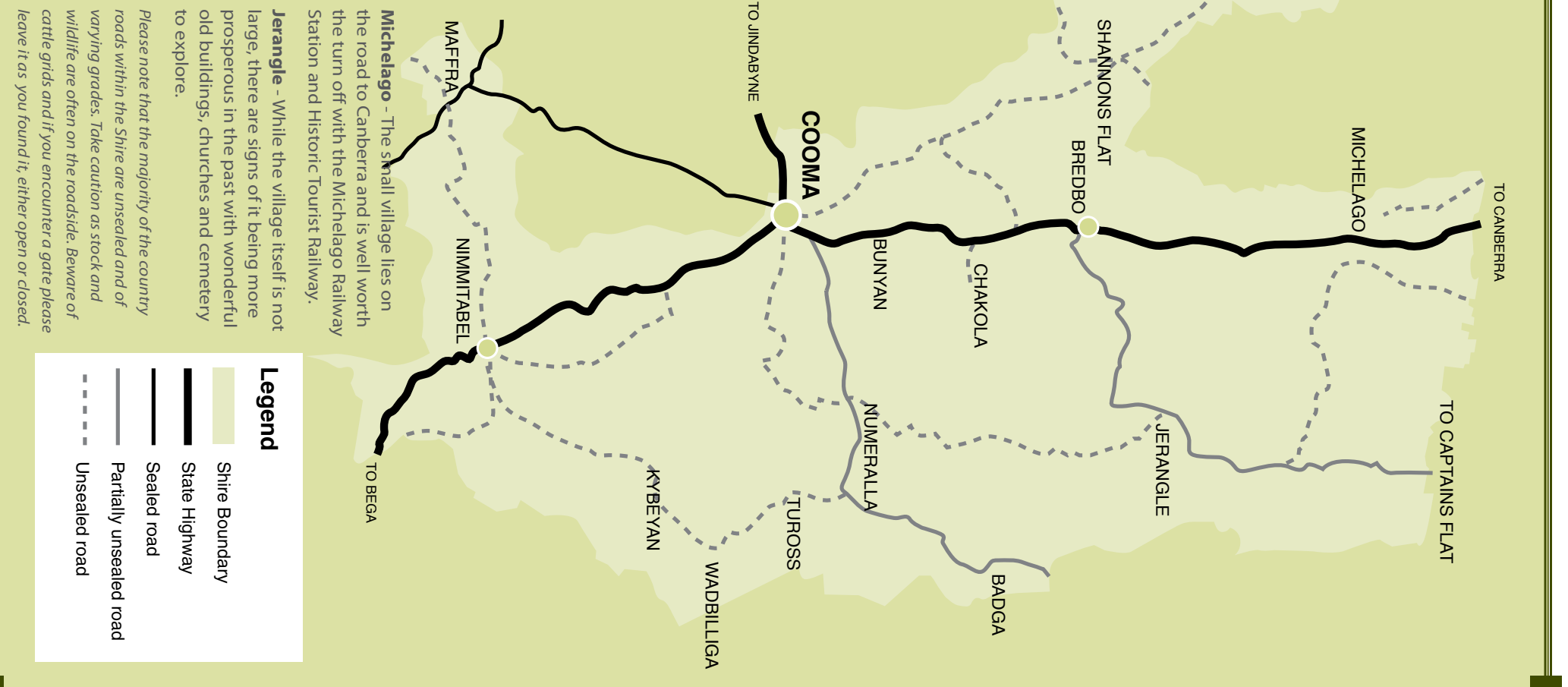
Nimmitabel - The Heritage Walk explores the town's rich history and can be completed in an hour. Ask for a brochure.

Numeralla - This picturesque village is situated on the Numeralla River and has a number of heritage buildings such as a former inn, old cottages, churches and cemetery.

Cascades - Located within Wadbilliga National Park this lovely picnic and camping area has walking tracks to view Turoos Falls and a viewing platform above the Cascades. Ask for a brochure.

Murrumbidgee Reserve - Approximately 10kms from Cooma and a popular local summer picnic area on the Murrumbidgee River with BBQs, picnic tables and parking.

Bredbo - Bredbo has always been a favoured stopping point for travellers and offers a warm and friendly welcome with the Bredbo Inn a popular watering hole.



Legend

- Shire Boundary
- State Highway
- Sealed road
- Partially unsealed road
- Unsealed road