our heritage
The story of the Eurobodalla

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BATEMANS BAY   MORUYA   NAROOMA

Map labels

Nelligen
Durras
Batemans Bay
Tollgate Islands
Mogo
Malua Bay
Mossy Point
Broulee Island
Broulee
Moruya
Congo
Tuross Head
Potato Point
Bodalla
Dalmeny
Narooma
Montague Island
Mystery Bay
Central Tilba
Tilba Tilba

our museums and historical societies

The Old Courthouse Museum Batemans Bay

3 Museum Place, Batemans Bay 2536

Housed in the relocated former Batemans Bay Courthouse and Police Residence.

W: http://www.oldcourthousemuseum.com/

Clyde River and Batemans Bay Historical Society Inc.
E: secretary@oldcourthousemuseum.com
T: (02) 4472 1635
https://www.facebook.com/Whereyourstorieslive/

Moruya Museum

85 Campbell Street, Moruya

Located in a heritage-listed house built by Moruya pioneer Abraham Emmott in 1875.

W: http://www.mdhs.org.au/

Moruya and District Historical Society Inc.
E: Secretary@mdhs.org.au
T: (02) 4474 3224
https://www.facebook.com/MoruyaHistoricalSociety/
https://www.instagram.com/moruyahistoricalsociety/
https://mhsociety.wordpress.com

Narooma's Lighthouse Museum

Narooma Visitors' Centre, Princes Highway
Narooma 2545

Purpose built to house the original light mechanism from Montague Lighthouse.

W: http://www.eurobodalla.com.au/Things-to-See-and-Do/History-and-Heritage/narooma-lighthouse-museum
T: (02) 4476 2881

Narooma Historical Society Inc.
E: naroomahistoricalsociety@gmail.com
T: (02) 4476 1582

Eurobodalla Visitors Centres are located on the Princes Highway in Batemans Bay and Narooma

our rich history
The story of the Eurobodalla

The Dhurga speaking people of the Yuin nation have lived in this region for over 20,000 years. The landscape is part of their culture with Gulaga (Mount Dromedary) and Barunguba (Montague Island) having special significance. Many place names today are derived from their Aboriginal names.

Sea transport was vital to early European settlement both for people and to send produce to market in Sydney, especially timber and cheese. Road transport was difficult and there were many rivers to cross so the main settlements developed where sea access was good.

The Eurobodalla has a rich maritime, dairying, goldmining, sawmilling, fishing and tourism heritage.

Barunguba (Montague Island)

1 Nelligen

Nelligen was once a busy port servicing Braidwood's farming district and the Araluen goldfields. It pre-dates Batemans Bay.

The track over the Clyde Mountain was built mid-1850s. Ships landed passengers and supplies and returned with cargoes of wool, gold, timber and produce for Sydney. By 1860 Nelligen boasted a large warehouse, four hotels, two stores, two blacksmiths, baker and a police 'watchhouse'.

As goldmining waned, timber dominated Nelligen's shipping. Its days as a port ended in the early 1950s.

What to do:

- Stroll along the waterfront and imagine the activity with steamers arriving twice a week and horse and bullock teams conveying goods to and from Braidwood. The punt across the river opposite operated from 1875 until the bridge opened in 1964. The dead tree near the bridge is where bushrangers Thomas and John Clarke were supposedly chained while waiting to board ship for Sydney in 1869 to stand trial for murder.

- Walk up Braidwood Street, past the surviving historic buildings and cenotaph to the former Catholic Church (1896).

Former St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (1896).

2 Batemans Bay

Sawmills were soon established nearby with at least 13 sawmills around the Clyde River by the 1880s, some near Nelligen. Names associated with the Bay's sawmills include Francis Guy, Perry and Mitchell. Fishing and oyster farming also became significant industries. Shipping gradually favoured the Bay at Nelligen's expense.

Batemans Bay grew as a regional centre last century due to its being the closest seaside town to the growing national capital, Canberra. It became a popular holiday destination particularly for Canberra residents.

The demise of coastal shipping in the early 1950s and the south coast's subsequent reliance on road transport meant the construction of Batemans Bay Bridge in 1956 provided a vital link to the south.

The last sawmill at Batemans Bay closed in 2012.

What to do:

- Visit the Old Courthouse Museum.
- Take a cruise up the Clyde River to Nelligen.
- Enjoy the Batemans Bay Historic Walk.

Batemans Bay Bridge (1956) was the last bridge on the Princes Highway built across the Eurobodalla's major rivers.

3 Mogo

Gold was first discovered near Mogo in 1857 but the 'rush' was short-lived. Mining continued in the area over the next 50 years but it was spasmodic. In the 1860s, a church, shops, post office, School of Arts and government school were built. Sawmilling began in the 1880s with Lynch's mill.

Mogo became a sleepy backwater until it was transformed into a quaint tourist village in the late 1980s with cafes, art and craft shops.

What to do:

- Visit the 'Original Gold Rush Colony' theme park with exhibits relating to the district's early mining and historic mining equipment.
- Visit the former St. Mary's Church (now Gallery) and see the pressed metal interior.

One of Mogo's early houses is still a private residence today.

4 Broulee

Broulee was the region's first port. In the 1830s, settlers around the district would load and unload from ships anchored in Broulee Bay because a sandbar blocked the entrance to the Moruya River.

Broulee was surveyed and gazetted in 1837 and by mid-1841 a brisk sea trade had developed with Sydney. It was also a depot for Jervis Bay's whaling fleet. It had six buildings and the 46 residents were mostly convicts employed by local landowner Captain William Oldrey. The port was also the centre for the court and police districts stretching from the Jervis Bay to Eden.

After a flood scoured out the bar at Moruya River in 1841, Moruya became the preferred port. The court and hotel were relocated to Moruya in the 1850s and Broulee was abandoned.

Holidaymakers rediscovered Broulee in the 1920s.

What to do:

- Visit the memorial to the settlers and Aborigines who rescued people from the wreck of the schooner Rover in 1841. It is in the park on Candlagan Creek's northern bank.
- Walk around Broulee Island, a Nature Reserve since 1964, and see the site of the 1840-41 Erin-Go-Bragh Hotel and an interesting 1842 grave.

5 Moruya

Moruya is famous for its granite, first quarried in 1850. Moruya granite was used in the pylons for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. From 1925 to 1932, the Dorman and Long company employed over 250 stonemasons from 13 different countries to supply, cut and dress granite slabs for the pylons.

Moruya's history has been shaped by its river: particularly its floods and shifting sands. The river flats first attracted settlers in the late 1820s but initially they relied on ships anchoring in Broulee Bay.

A flood in 1841 temporarily scoured the bar at the entrance to Moruya River opening it to shipping. The Government then abandoned Broulee in favour of Moruya, gazetted as a village in 1851.

The first wharves were near the entrance. The river's deep channels changed frequently and vessels often grounded so a pilot was stationed at Moruya South Head from 1860.

Moruya was an important port for the Araluen goldfields and for the district's producers. Moruya also developed into an important regional and administrative centre. The first bridge was built in 1876 replacing the punt and ford.

What to do:

- Visit Moruya Museum in Emmott House and see the 10m long State heritage listed Abernethy & Co stonemason's lathe. In the park opposite is the memorial to the workers of the quarry.
- Follow the Historic Town Walk to discover Moruya's delightful historic buildings.
- Drive to Moruya Heads (Toragy Point). The Pilot Station (1861-1953), now private residence, is nearby. Moruya's first pilot Captain John Ross is among seamen buried in the historic cemetery.
- Walk the stunning 14km coastal Bingi Dreaming Track from Congo to Coila Lake. The track links camp and ceremonial sites, water and food sources.

Old Post and Telegraph Office in Page Street is now a B&B.

6 Tuross Head

Small coastal vessels carried timber and produce from farms around Tuross Lake in the 1850s & 1860s, but attempts to make Tuross a port were frustrated by its difficult entrance.

The 875 acre Tuross peninsula was acquired by Patrick Mylott in 1870. He built Tuross House, overlooking Coila and Tuross Lakes, and farmed there until 1883 when he moved to Sydney to ensure his young daughter received appropriate operatic training. Eva, born at Tuross, became an internationally acclaimed opera singer and is commemorated with a plaque in Eva Mylott Park in Jutland Ave.

Tuross Head was eventually developed as a tourist destination in the mid-1920s by Hector McWilliam. He purchased the property from Mylott's widow in 1925, subdivided it and sold the lots for holiday houses. He established a nine-hole golf course and planted 200 Norfolk Island Pines around Tuross Head. These pines are McWilliam's distinctive legacy.

Several boatsheds with hire facilities were built to service the growing demand for fishing and boating on Tuross Lake.

What to do:

- Visit the historic boatsheds on Trafalgar Road and enjoy a delightful meal on the waterfront.
- Wander the Norfolk Island Pine grove in McWilliam Park at Tarandore Point.

7 Bodalla

Bodalla is home to two significant churches designed by two of the Colony's most famous nineteenth century architects.

The Bodalla Estate was established in 1860 by leading Sydney businessman Thomas Sutcliffe Mort (1816-1878) as his country estate. He had pioneered specialised wool auctions and pastoral finance, developed Mort's Dock, and pioneered frozen meat export.

Mort was 'the father of Australian dairying'. In 1864, he changed Australian cheese production from a cottage industry into a factory system where, for the first time, milk from different sources was manipulated to produce a uniform quality cheese to rival English imports. Bodalla was regarded as 'one of the few showplaces of the industrial progress and enterprise of the Colony'. Ideas developed here were taken up by dairy farmers elsewhere.

Bodalla's 'village' was initially on the river flats but floods in the 1860s and 1870 prompted Mort to establish a new village on higher ground. The Bodalla Estate remained in the Mort family for over 100 years.

What to do:

- Visit All Saints Anglican Church (built 1883 to 1902), a memorial to Thomas Mort and his first wife Theresa. Designed by Edmund Blacket.
- Visit the shingled Catholic Church (1886), designed by John Horbury Hunt.
- Visit Bodalla Dairy Shed to hear about Bodalla's history.
- Walk the village, following the Bodalla Town Walk map, also visiting the Bodalla Arms Hotel (1910), bakery (by mid 1880s) and Post Office (1899).
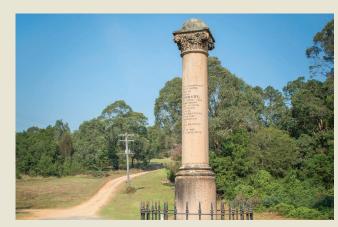
8 Nerrigundah

Nerrigundah is the most infamous of the many goldmining sites on the south coast. On 9 April 1866, the Clarke Gang of bushrangers held up the town. In the ensuing gunfight, they fatally shot Constable Miles O'Grady who had left his sick bed to defend the town.

Alluvial gold had been found in the steep narrow valley of Gulph Creek in 1861 sparking a rush with 200-300 men on site within weeks, many from Araluen. By 1866, the Gulph goldfields had passed their peak, yet Nerrigundah still had five hotels, several stores, a police barracks, and a town population of a few hundred with about 2,000, including many Chinese, in surrounding areas.

Nerrigundah was never anything but a small mining town. A steady trickle of gold from local diggings over a long period kept it alive into the 1930s. The Gulph is reputed to have produced some of the purest gold in the Colony.

What to do:

- Visit the memorial to O'Grady in Nerrigundah's main street, Pollock's Store, the former Catholic Church, a Chinese pig-roasting oven, Coman's mine and the several cemeteries in the area.

Memorial to Constable O'Grady

9 Narooma and Montague Island

Wagonga Inlet was used as a port from 1860 to supply the Dromedary and Nerrigundah goldfields, with initial settlement in from the entrance. Sawmilling became the major industry with ships carrying timber to Sydney from several sawmills until the mid-1950s. Narooma was gazetted as a town in 1886.

Tourists were attracted to Narooma from its early days by the area's beauty, ocean and inlet fishing, and oysters. From the 1920s, Narooma's stylish guest houses attracted Sydney professionals and farmers and graziers from 'out west'. Camping along the foreshore was popular from the 1920s. Tourism is now Narooma's main industry.

Australia's first commercial fish cannery was established in Narooma in 1937. Narooma is the closest port for whale watching tours to Montague Island (Baranguba) and its historic lightstation (1881).

What to do:

- Visit the Visitors Centre to see the original lens from Montague Lighthouse and learn about the history of Montague Island and the lightstation, Aboriginal custodians, early settlement, maritime endeavours and fishing.

- Visit the historic Montague Island Lightstation.

- Stroll along the shore to Narooma's Bar Rock Lookout, or head north across the bridge to Mill Bay Boardwalk. Interpretive signs include some of Narooma's history.

- See the cluster of heritage-listed boatsheds, the largest group of boatsheds on the south coast.

- Cruise on the Wagonga Princess and hear about life 'on the river'.

- See a movie at the School of Arts Hall (1926 – the Kinema), one of the longest-running movie theatres in NSW.

10 The Tilba district

The Tilba Conservation Area was listed by the National Trust in 1974.

Gulaga, formerly Mt Dromedary, is sacred to the people of the Yuin nation and dominates the Tilba region. Gulaga and Biamanga (Mumbulla Mountain, further south) were handed back to the traditional owners in 2006. Goldmining contributed to the district's prosperity but only on a modest scale. At its peak 1902-1904, 300 people lived on the mountain.

The two villages of Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba relied more on dairying. The ABC Co-operative in Central Tilba was the first cheese co-operative in NSW (1891); the village developed to mainly service farmers delivering milk to the factory.

What to do:

- Walk along Central Tilba's historic Bate Street to the ABC Cheese Factory.

- A short drive along Sherringham Lane will take you to the picturesque and historic Tilba Cemetery on the coast.

- Walk up Gulaga from the historic Pam's Store in Tilba Tilba (1879-1880). It's a 14km five-hour return walk. An interpretative sign at the saddle explains Gulaga's significance to Yuin people and some goldmining history.

- Follow the Tilba District Historical Tour for a self-guided car tour of the district.

Local History Walk maps for these towns can be downloaded from www.eurobodalla.com.au.

Eurobodalla Shire Council acknowledges the efforts of the Eurobodalla Heritage Advisory Committee in the production of this guide.

Cover photo of Baranguba (Montague Island and Gulaga) by Geoff Comfort Photography, courtesy NPWS. Town photos by John Spencer, courtesy of NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

Legend

	Highway
	Road
	Sealed Tourist Drive
	Unsealed Tourist Drive
†	Church
	Visitor Information
	Lookout
	Caravan Park
	Petrol
	Boat Ramp
	Toilets
	BBQ/Fireplace
	Picnic Area
	Bowling Green
	Post Office
	Police
	School
	Golf Course
	Historical Interest
	Hospital
	Gardens
	Zoo/Wildlife Park
	Patrolled Beach
	Airport
	Camping
	Racecourse
	Walking Track