

THE ROBERTSON TRAILS

To help you enjoy the many facets of Robertson, we have created three Walking Trails that will help you understand more about our village. Scan the QR Code for the walk you would like to take to find a map and additional information.

Heritage Trail

The Heritage Trail starts here, at the Information Centre. First, cross the road to the old Post Office and head west along Hoddle Street (Illawarra Highway) past the Police Station. Continue on to No 31, cross the street again and walk east back to where you started. Continue on to St John's Church and on up to the Old Robertson Cheese Factory, returning by way of the Heritage Railway Station.

WALKING TIME, ABOUT 45 MINUTES

63 Hoddle Street – The Old Post Office

The building was completed in 1896. It was damaged in the earthquake of 1961, but re-opened after repairs with a new façade – it operated as a Post Office until 1994. It is now a private residence.



59-61 Hoddle Street – The Police Station

This was built in 1887, with a Court of Petty Sessions being established the following year. There were police cells at the back and the bailiff lived in the village.



55-57 Hoddle Street – The School of Arts

The original stone building was completed in 1886, with the western annexe used as the library. The hall was widened and lengthened by 1939, with a new front section and a stage. After the war it operated for many years as a popular local cinema.



47-53 Hoddle Street – Robertson Public School

As it was built in 1872, the school was a single sandstone classroom with the teacher's residence attached, now two classrooms. In 1891, a headmaster's residence was built near the corner – it is now the administrative building.



43-45 Hoddle Street – The Light Horse Gallery

Built in the 1890s, this building was first an Auctioneers office, then Orderly Room for a half squadron of the Australian Light Horse. It was Henningham's General Store from the 1930s, and the Dairyfarmers Co-op in 1953.



39 Hoddle Street – Methodist Church

Built in 1902, this building replaced earlier churches, including the first slab church built from trees on the land. Originally a Methodist Church, becoming the Uniting Church in 1977. It is now a B&B.



37 Hoddle Street – The Robertson Manse

Completed in 1896, this building is now a private residence.



31 Hoddle Street – Shop

Warby's General Store was first built on this site in 1884. It was replaced by this small store in 1938.

26 Hoddle Street – Robertson Recollections

The first garage in Robertson was on this site, from 1925 to 1948 – it was run by L.A. Jones'. There were no petrol pumps until 1927; cars drove through the big double doors to get fuel from drums. Before the train line was built, Jones' Hudson cars provided a service to bring visitors from Moss Vale to and from Ranelagh (now the Robertson Hotel), as well as providing the mail service.

34 Hoddle Street – The Bakery

The site of the Saddler's shop in the early 1990s, but for more than 70 years it was the village Butcher shop. It became a bakery in 2000.

36 Hoddle Street – Old Shop

The Barber and Tobacconist Shop from the 1890s... and from 1930 to 1951, a Drapery and Haberdashery.

42 Hoddle Street – Pizzas in the Mist

There has always been a store where Pizzas in the Mist is now. It was William Graham's General Store from the 1890s and later Arthur Vandenberg's Store from the mid 1920s to the late 1930s. At one time it included a Billiard Saloon.

48 Hoddle Street – Hampden Park

62-66 Hoddle Street – St John's Church

St John's was built of stone from nearby Glenquary and completed in 1876. The bell tower had to be rebuilt after the 1961 earthquake.



St John's Rectory

Completed in 1924 and extended in 1989.

107 Hoddle Street – The Old Robertson Cheese Factory

The Cheese Factory was opened in 1936 to utilise surplus milk produced on local farms. In 1955 the Co-operative sold to Dairy Farmers, but production of the popular Robertson Cheese stopped when the Factory was closed in 1989.



87-89 Hoddle Street – Robertson Inn

The hotel was built in 1887, and originally known as the Criterion Hotel. It is now the only hotel remaining from the several hotels and boarding houses of the day.



71-77 Hoddle Street – Robertson Farm Machinery

This was the site of the Royal Hotel, which burnt down in 1934.

67-69 Hoddle Street – The Bank

The bank was completed in 1889 for the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, later being used as a local office of the National Australia Bank until 1995.



Yarranga Street – The Robertson Heritage Railway Station

The Robertson Railway Station was completed in 1932. The station precinct has a museum, gallery, picnic pavilions, Perway/Gang Shed, reconciliation carved poles, and Flugelman sculpture in landscaped gardens.



Heritage Listed Items beyond the Village

The following items are a little out of town but we include them for your interest.

21 Missingham Street – Robertson Cemetery

Local residents were chosen as Trustees and early burials were recorded by them from 1894 until 1943 when the Council took over responsibility.

22 Illawarra Highway – Wingecarribee Swamp

The Swamp was formed of peat over thousands of years and was one of the few upland fens in mainland Australia. It is fed by Caalang Creek, which runs through Robertson, and the water flows downstream into the Wingecarribee River.

The Swamp was the water supply for Bowral in the early years. A dam, creating the Wingecarribee Reservoir in 1974, flooded the northwest third of the Swamp. Peat mining was carried out in the upper half until 1998 when a heavy rain fall event caused the collapse of most of the peat bed, much of which drifted into the reservoir and a major channel was created through the swamp.

The Swamp contains indigenous archaeological sites which may have been buried for thousands of years and is also recognized as providing habitat for a number of endangered or vulnerable plants and animals. It is listed as an Endangered Ecological Community at both State and Federal levels and listed on the State Heritage Register.

23 Cnr Illawarra Hwy and Fountaindale Rd – The Robertson Hotel

Built by Melbourne investor George Abbott, it opened in 1924 as Hotel Robertson. Subsequent owners from 1925 onwards named it Hotel Ranelagh, and during the War it was used as a training center for the RAAF Women's Auxiliary. From 1946 to 1968 it was known as St. Anthony's, having been acquired by the Roman Catholic Church for a seminary. In 1972 it returned to use as a hotel and renamed Ranelagh House. Since 2014 new owners have named it The Robertson Hotel.