

# MILLMERRAN HERITAGE WALK



The name of Millmerran is said to be of aboriginal origin from "Meel" the eye, and "Merran" to look out. The name was suggested to Edward Walpole by Mr A Metson, who was a recognised authority on aboriginal speech. Mr Metson advised that the first syllable of the name could be pronounced Mill although "Meel" is the correct sound as given by the local aboriginal people. Prior to Millmerran being used, the area was known for a short time as Back Creek and also Domville. (Sourced from Millmerran 75th Anniversary [1955] booklet compiled by Mr Sid Gillespie)

Please follow the Heritage Walk Map on Pages 6 and 7 in number order commencing at Walpole and Campbell Streets, Anzac Park

- The Church of England Church** is built on land donated by Edward Walpole. The original church was built in 1891 and is now used as the hall with the new church built in 1955 (if you walk into Anzac Park you can see the old building). St Peters was the first church built in the Millmerran town district.
  - The bowling green is now on the site of the original "Domville Hotel". The name was changed in 1911 to the "Imperial Hotel", this establishment burned down in 1924. The Imperial was then built on the site of the present hotel in Campbell Street.
  - The Cultural Centre** was opened in 1981 and is on the site of the old Melba Theatre. Pictures were screened here three times a week. The original theatre burned down on 17th April, 1955 and a new theatre was built within five months. With the advent of TV, the Melba closed its doors on 26th February, 1977.
  - Post Office** was built in 1923 at 34 Walpole Street [Heritage Plaque location]. It housed the telephone exchange where up to three telephonists worked and where one slept to operate the exchange between 9pm and 6am. In recent years the post office has been relocated to Campbell Street.
  - Catholic Church Grounds** - the original church (built 1903) is now used as the hall with the new church opened in 1952. The land for the Catholic Church was donated by Edward Walpole.
  - St Joseph's Convent** was used by the Nuns until the late 1980s but is now used as the parish centre. Formal Catholic education began in the church hall in 1959 while the school was being built.
  - The First Police Residence.** Constable George Moore was stationed in Millmerran in 1895. Constable Moore later bought the licence of the local hotel.
  - The Original Residence and General Store** - Edward Walpole 1884, 14-16 Charlotte Street. [Heritage Plaque location]. Edward Walpole opened his store in the mid 1880s. This was a general store, butcher's shop and post office. In 1891 Edward Walpole surveyed some town allotments. This was the nucleus of the town and it was from this period that the town commenced to grow.
  - Millmerran Museum** was the original Millmerran Shire Council Chambers. Millmerran Shire was formed from the Jondaryan Divisional Board and was declared a local authority on 24th April, 1913. The building was used by the council until 1961. The building and grounds were then handed to the newly formed Millmerran Historical Society in the 1970s. The Millmerran Museum opened to the public on 27th September, 1981.
  - Historic Heroes Walk** - Walking through the grounds of the library and Domville Place to Campbell Street, you will pass by four columns paying homage to the early settlers.
- BUSH CHARACTERS**
- Edward Arthur Pimm (Teddy) took over the family carrying business in 1943 - Millmerran to Brisbane Transport
  - Edmund John Butler (Joe) started work at a very young age at Western Creek Station
- INDUSTRY**
- Douglas Alexander Hall (Doug) began his poultry business in 1960
- WOMEN OF CHARACTER**
- Bridget O'Leary (Ettie) - the first person to open a Hospital in Millmerran in 1934
  - Sarah Boyd - the first teacher at Yandilla Provisional School, Back Creek in 1882
- FOUNDING FAMILIES**
- Gore Family of Yandilla - founders of a Pastoral empire
  - Edward Walpole - founder of the town of Millmerran

Cross Campbell Street at the clock and walk up to the Ram's Head Hotel

- Imperial Hotel** 1925 - Licensee Fred Scharer, 1 Campbell Street [Heritage Plaque location]. Currently named The Ram's Head Hotel. As the solitary hotel it was very profitable, however liquor licences given to Sporting Clubs has spread the drinking trade. The "Imperial" has had many owners and many name changes and many renovations throughout the years (sourced from Millmerran on My Mind by HD Curtis 2013). "Millmerran On My Mind" is a compilation of memories by Harry David Curtis 2013 and is available for sale at the Visitor Information Centre/Museum.
- Ridgeway's Fruit Shop, Barber's Shop and Billiard Room** - 21 Campbell Street. [Heritage Plaque location] located beside Millmerran Newsagency.
- Mr Jack West's Café** 1918 - 31 Campbell Street [Heritage Plaque location]. Currently occupied by Horizon Accounting Group and office of Millmerran Commerce & Progress Inc.
- Elbornes Butchers** 1916 - 37 Campbell Street [Heritage Plaque location]. Currently occupied by Millmerran Meats.
- Charlie Bremner Saddlery** 1930s - 39-41 Campbell Street [Heritage Plaque location]. Currently occupied by Millmerran Post Office.
- Passchendale Residence and Boot and Saddle Manufacturing** - Mr W Flynn 1919, 55-57 Campbell Street [Heritage Plaque location]. Billy Flynn's home "Passchendale", the name being a memory of the First World War in France. Bill Flynn had a small shop alongside where he conducted a shoe repair business. The home and shop have changed hands many times during the past years and the shop has had many uses and many short-term tenants. At present it is a coffee shop (Forage kitchen & coffee bar) and the house a "Bed and Breakfast" (sourced from Millmerran On My Mind by HD Curtis 2013).
- Bakery and Residence** - 1930s - Owner John Lahood, 69 Campbell Street [Heritage Plaque location]. Currently occupied by Millmerran Landcare.
- Frank Hill** - Blacksmith early 1900s, 78 Campbell Street [Heritage Plaque location]

Now you can complete your walk back up to Anzac Park, passing by Domville Place where the digital led sign is located advertising current events.

