



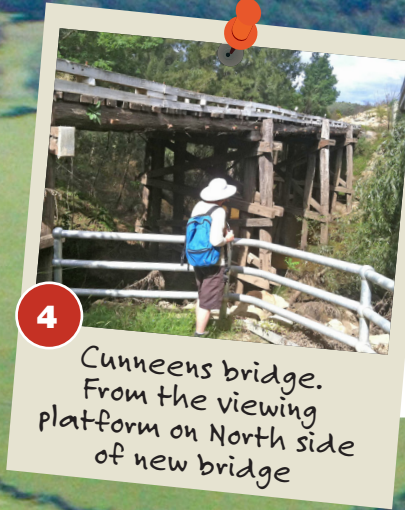
**MacDougall Street, now know as Negro Street.**  
After viewing Cunneens bridge head south along Paynes Crossing Road for approximately 300 meters staying on the east side, to the end of Negro Street Here you will find a brass plaque mounted on a stone plinth giving details of one of the early pioneers of Wollombi. Look over to the right and you will see a sandstone church

**7 St Johns Anglican Church.**  
This church was designed by Edmund Blackett. The foundation stone was laid in 1846 and it was consecrated in 1849 by Bishop Tyrell. It was built in the pointed Gothic style and features stained glass windows which are memorials to past parishioners. From here head east along Negro Street to the end and take the steps down to the Wollombi Brook. This is the Brook Walk.

**8 The Brook Walk**  
This walk is a combined Wollombi Valley Landcare and Tidy Towns project. It passes through a creek side reserve leased to the owners of the gardens and cottage on the high side of the walk. Path maintenance and native plantings undertaken by these lessees and the project partners assist in the bank stability and a specialist Landcare group is undertaking a long term bush regeneration project. Continue for 200 meters along the Brook Walk to the end and turn right up the steps towards Wollombi Road. These stairs at the end were constructed with community funding to access a rock platform below where students could undertake Water Watch and scoop netting without bank erosion. Turn left at Wollombi Road and continue east for approximately 100 meters where you will see, on your left, a plaque mounted on a post and rail fence before the cemetery.

**9 Jane Pendergast Grave.**  
This grave with headstone is of a lady who died in 1905 aged 73. She was not allowed to be buried in the cemetery, allegedly because she had a liaison with the local priest. She gave birth to a son who was tragically killed in a local accident in 1915. The headstone is tended by the owners of the private house on whose land she is buried. From here continue east on Wollombi Road following the road around the millpond staying on the path around the cemetery.

**10 Wollombi Anglican Cemetery.**  
This cemetery was consecrated in 1849 by Bishop Tyrell. Many of the pioneers of the district are buried here. Behind the cemetery is the millpond and across the pond a flour mill used to grind the wheat which was grown in the district. The earliest grave is from 1834, but this was relocated from behind the Catholic church in its original position; see 22. Further details are available at the Museum on the graves and the history of those buried in the cemetery. It is worth wandering among the graves to identify the graves of Mr and Mrs Dunlop who built Mulla Villa, the building visible when you enter Wollombi from the south. He was the first magistrate to live in the valley and he is buried with his wife alongside. Continue round the cemetery to the picnic area, some 200m further on.



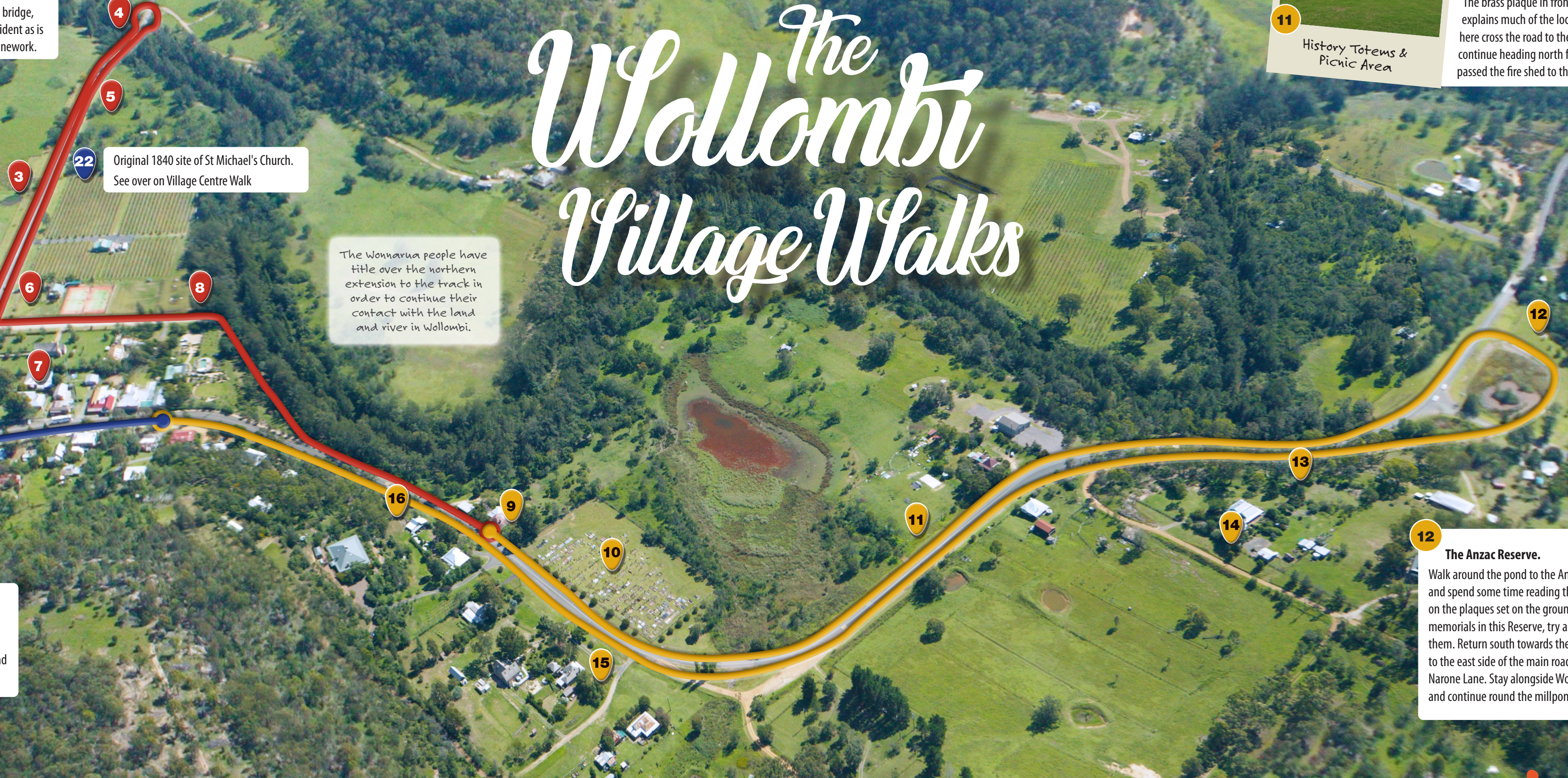
**Cunneens bridge.**  
This bridge was built in 1896 under the supervision of Gordon Edgell the roads engineer at the time. It was built on top of an old convict built bridge, whose abutments are still evident as is some of the convict hewn stonework.

**3** From the start of the Wollombi Village Walk head north along Paynes Crossing Road for approximately 200 meters, staying on the Tavern (west) side of the road, to the brass plaque mounted on the stone plinth after the sale-yard. Note; you will have passed the public toilet on the left hand side.

**2** Wollombi Sale yards. Home of the Wollombi Village Markets.

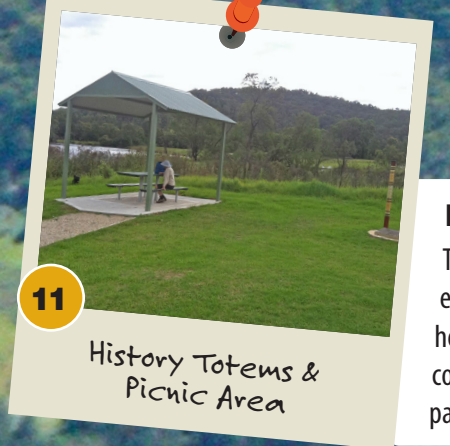


**Start at The Obelisk.**  
Starting point of the walk is the obelisk at the corner of Paynes Crossing Road and Wollombi Road opposite the Tavern



# The Wollombi Village Walks

The Wonnarua people have title over the northern extension to the track in order to continue their contact with the land and river in Wollombi.

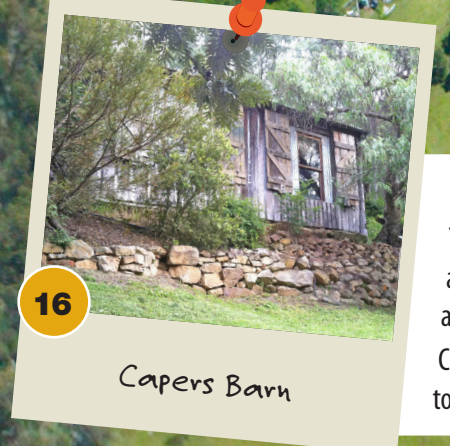


**History Totems & Picnic Area**  
The brass plaque in front of the totems explains much of the local history. From here cross the road to the west side and continue heading north for 300 meters passed the fire shed to the Anzac reserve.

**12 The Anzac Reserve.**  
Walk around the pond to the Anzac memorial and spend some time reading the memorials on the plaques set on the ground. There are 4 memorials in this Reserve, try and identify all of them. Return south towards the village keeping to the east side of the main road passing along Narone Lane. Stay alongside Wollombi Road and continue round the millpond to the school.



Narone Lane



Capers Barn

**Capers Barn.**  
This was built in the early part of the 20th century and was once The Boiling Billy where locals could get a cup of tea and a sandwich. Continue west for a further 200 meters until you come to the village. On your right is the old local hall.

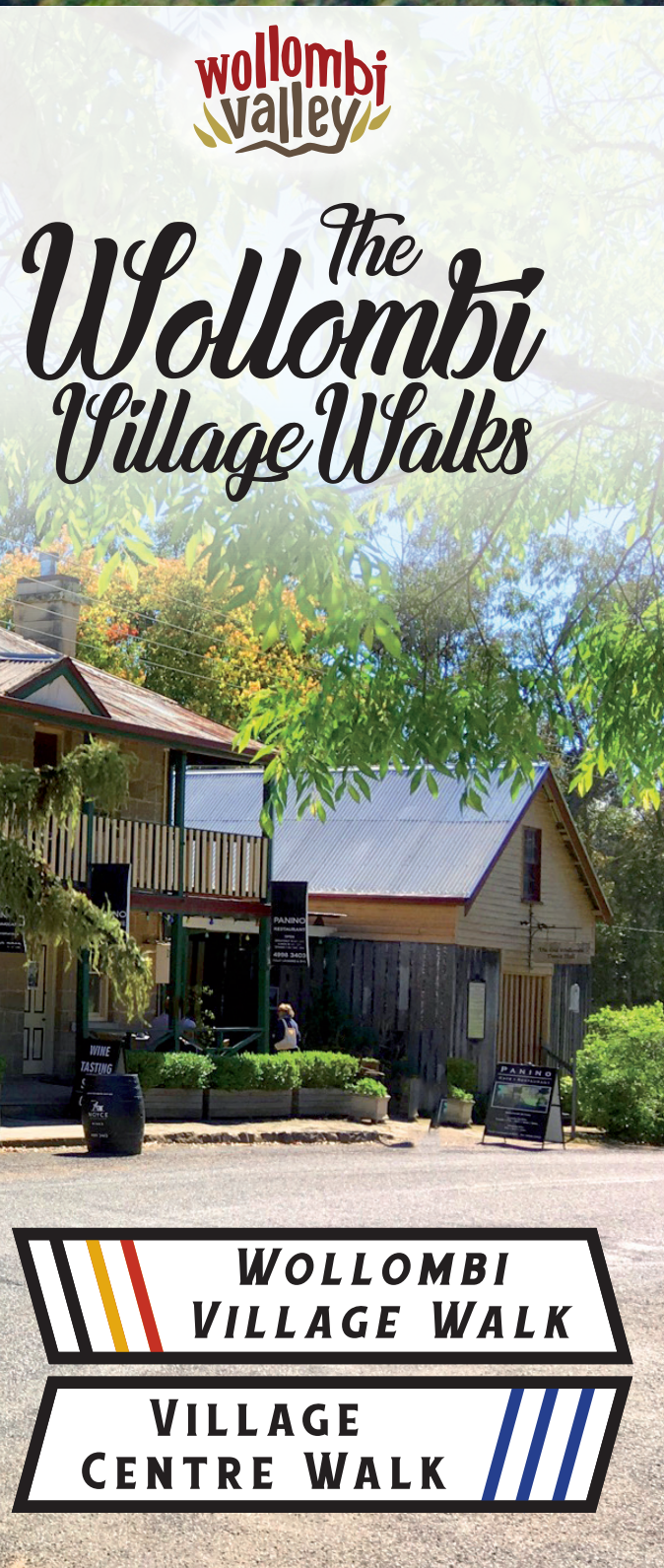
**15 Wollombi School & residence.**  
This school has been in continuous operation since 1852. The present structure of sandstone was built in 1881, as was the school residence. Leave the school and cross the road at the school crossing to the north side of Wollombi Road. Continue heading west back to the village. Once you have crossed the road after approximately 100m look across the road to the barn on the opposite side of the road.

**14 Wollombi House.**  
Dating back to approximately 1870's and once operating as a guest house this gorgeous homestead has beautiful Georgian features, stunning cedar woodwork throughout, a magnificent central grand hallway and wide sweeping verandahs.



## WOLLOMBI VILLAGE WALK

SEE OVER FOR VILLAGE CENTRE WALK



## WOLLOMBI VILLAGE WALK

VILLAGE CENTRE WALK

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOLLOMBI**  
Wollombi is a small village in the Hunter Region of New South Wales, Australia. It is within the Cessnock City Council LGA, situated 29 kilometers (18 mi) southwest of Cessnock and 128 km (80 mi) north of Sydney. To the south is the village of Laguna, to the east, the village of Millfield and to the north, the village of Broke. The valley is bordered to the west by the World Heritage listed Yengo National Park (and Yengo State Forest) and the main road, the convict-built Great North Road forms one of the major legs of the Greater Blue Mountains Drive. To the east lie Watagans National Park along with Corrabare and Olney State Forests. Wollombi's modest modern size is offset by its 19th century sandstone buildings and timber slab constructed cottages and sheds in a narrow valley junction containing Wollombi Brook and Congewai Creek. Narone and Yango Creeks also join these waterways near the village. The area is home to an abundance of native birds, reptiles and other animals including kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroos and wombats and is surrounded by imposing tree-lined mountains. **WOLLOMBI WILDLIFE** As you walk the paths, keep your eyes open for wildlife. In the distance, kangaroos will be grazing in the late afternoon, while on the paths and rocks, snakes and water dragons will be sunning themselves. In spring the birds are raising their young. Overhead, Channel Billed Cuckoos will screech, while by the Millpond, water birds will be shepherding their families. The Brook section is a wildlife corridor, where you might catch a glimpse of a platypus at dusk or see wombat droppings on the track. Pause and watch tiny birds like Robins, Finches, Honeyeaters and Wrens in the shelter of the trees.

**ABORIGINAL HISTORY**  
There are a vast number of historic Aboriginal sites in the surrounding countryside which is thought to have been used as a ceremonial meeting place as people from hundreds of kilometers visited the area and made their way to Mount Yengo - a place of great significance throughout the ancient nations of eastern Australia. There are rock engravings, sharpening grooves, hand stencils, tribal markings and other images in caves and outcrops, frequent evidence of camping sites along the Brook and it's tributary creeks, and two major mapping sites containing many engravings.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**  
Information courtesy of Bill Jordan & Associates, Cunneens Bridge Conservation Assessment Report July 2006. Cunneens Bridge drawing Paula Thompson. Wollombi Endeavour Museum. Produced by Capers Wollombi. (02) 4998 3211 Printed by Cessnock Print Place. (02) 4990 3230

**FURTHER INFORMATION**  
www.visitwollombi.com.au  
www.convictrail.org  
www.wollombi.nsw.au/museum/

**ADVICE FOR WALKING IN WOLLOMBI**  
Wear suitable shoes. Watch for traffic. Be aware of wild life, snakes and nesting bird - All bite. Grade: easy All walks combined approximately 2 hours.

repairable up until being replaced in 2011, by the concrete bridge. On the hillside on the north east side of the crossing was a Wesleyan Burial Ground, and to the southeast, on the south corner of Aleppo Street was the original location of St Michaels Catholic church. The original bridge was washed away in a flood of July 1857 and rebuilt shortly thereafter slightly to the west of the existing bridge on the downstream side. Further damage to the rebuilt bridge was caused in floods of 1867 and 1893. Wollombi is on the road from Wiseman's Ferry to Singleton or Maitland, and was a stopping place for travellers along the Great North Road. The Great North Road was built by convicts and was completed through the area about 1830. The area was first settled by farmers moving north from the Hawkesbury River district and the MacDonald Valley. Wheat was grown and ground into flour at the local mill from 1844, until rust disease forced settlers to move to northern parts of New South Wales. Timber getting was another important industry in the area. By the beginning of the 20th century, coal was being mined in the Cessnock area, and that town became the commercial center. The name "Wollombi" is believed to be aboriginal for "meeting place", situated where the north and south arms of the Wollombi Brook meet with Yango Creek.



**CUNNEENS BRIDGE 4**  
This river crossing is part of the convict-built Great North Road a section of which was constructed from Wiseman's Ferry to the Hunter valley. There has been a bridge on this site since 1833. The timber bridge visible from this viewing platform was built in 1896. It provides access over Congewai Creek, often referred to as the north arm of the Wollombi Brook. The Brook drains the south eastern area of the Hunter Valley and runs north to join the Hunter River which then runs in an easterly direction to meet the ocean at Newcastle. Names that have been given to this bridge over the period are, Wollombi Bridge, First Crossing Place,

Bryant's Bridge, Cunneens Bridge, and Bill Maloney's Bridge. Cunneens Bridge is what it is known as now. It is named after Patrick Canneen, sometimes spelt Conneen or Cuneen, who had a claim to the land to the south west of the bridge. The original 1833 low level bridge has abutments that were evident at the ends of the existing timber bridge. The original position of the bridge was chosen by Thomas Mitchell as surveyor general of the Great North Road in 1833. Following construction of the Great North Road the Wollombi area was settled by 1840. In 1896 the remaining high-level timber bridge was built for a sum of 412 pounds by Robert James and Arthur John Kevers. This "new" timber bridge is 43m long 5m wide built on a skew of 20deg. It is a 4 span structure of simply supported beams, predominantly 1' and 1'6" diameter hardwood timber, using existing stonework to form abutment wing walls. It suffered many floods and at times was 7 meters under water. Much damage was incurred by the bridge over its life but it remained

**17 The Old Wollombi Dance Hall**  
The present building was originally the bulk feed store, built around 1860s. From 1920 it operated as a ware-house and produce store. Take time to read the sign and look at the slabs, - if only they could talk! Look across the road to Wollombi Cottage.

**19 Kenny's Folly**  
A two story stone building built around 1890 by John Kenny. Early 19th century part of the building was leased to Gordon Edgell, the engineer responsible for maintaining the district roads. Gordon Edgell went on to found the Edgell (food canning) Company. Next to Kenny's Folly is the store



Kenny's Folly & Wollombi Store

**20 Wollombi Store**  
Built in 1841 it was leased in 1910 by Richard Owens, who was the founder of the Save-more chain of stores. Owen had a wagon which he took around the district visiting farmers and trading for fresh goods. Across from the store is another sandstone building which is now a private house.



**24 Wollombi Cultural Centre**  
Local Culture Centre With old Fire Shed Gallery behind.

**25 Endeavour Museum**  
Originally on this site was a timber court house and lock-up. David Dunlop was appointed as Police Magistrate for the Wollombi and MacDonald in 1840. The present building was erected in 1866. It has also been used as a police station. In 1970 it became a museum operated by Cessnock Historical Society. The museum features cedar fittings and original cells. Note the 1949 flood level on the brass strip on the side of the building.



**26 Convict Trail Project Post**  
On the opposite side of the road to the museum, on the corner of Great North Road and Wollombi Road there is a tall post with the Convict Trail Project emblem on it. Spend a moment to read the plaques and reflect on the history of the area. Having completed the walk cross the road to the Wollombi Tavern



Wollombi Tavern

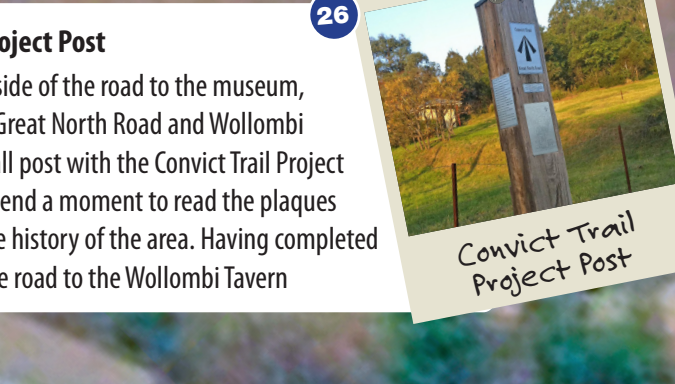


**Wollombi Cottage**  
This building is thought to have been the Clerk of Petty Sessions building. It dates back to around 1840. In the revival of Wollombi in the 1970s it was restored.

**Former Overland Telegraph Office**  
The telegraph office was opened in 1860. It was combined with Post office. The two offices combined in 1882. This building is now a private residence.

**St Michael's Church**  
This church was originally built near Cunneens bridge in 1840 (see over for former site location). After the 1893 flood it was relocated to its present site on higher ground. It features Gothic style doors and windows and a stained glass rose window behind the altar. The first foundation stone has been incorporated in the wall of the present building Next to the church is the old forge with the blacksmiths cottage behind.

**Blacksmiths forge with cottage behind**  
Continue down the road to the museum and spend some time viewing the exhibits.



Convict Trail Project Post



Wollombi Tavern

## VILLAGE CENTRE WALK

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