

BUNGENDORE

History Trail



About

The charming country town of Bungendore lies conveniently in between the NSW South Coast and the nation's capital. Despite its proximity to Canberra, Bungendore still maintains a relaxed and quaint country atmosphere. The town is well known for its unique gift shops, world class galleries and exceptional cool-climate wines, but also boasts a rich and colourful past.

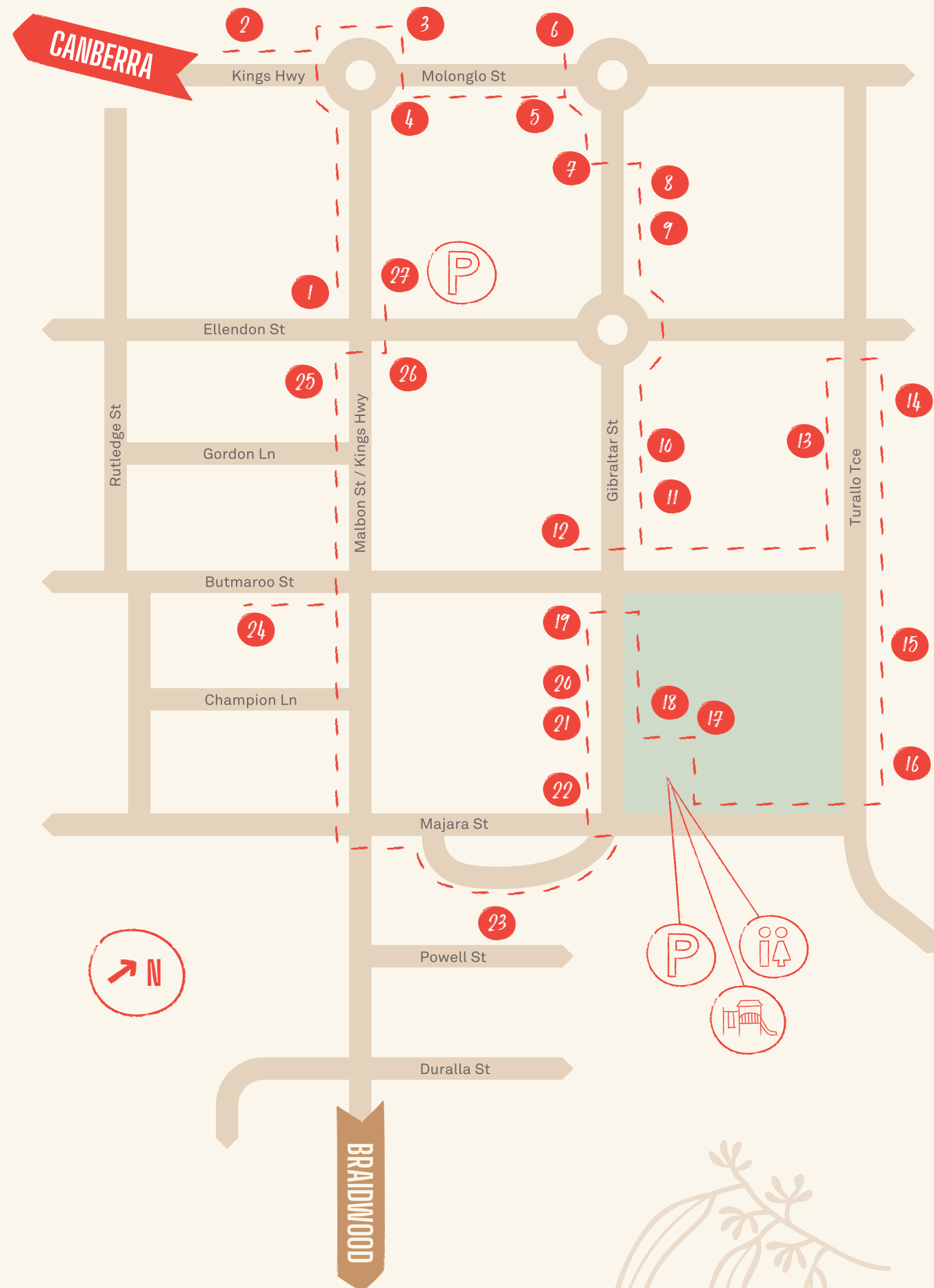
Far before the arrival of European settlers, the Bungendore area was occupied by the Ngarigo people. In 1820, however, European settlers reached the area while looking for the Murrumbidgee River, and 17 years later, the town of Bungendore was officially proclaimed.

Around this time, the settlement became an important crossroads connecting Goulburn, Braidwood, Queanbeyan and Cooma. Following the establishment of Canberra as the nation's capital, the latter half of the 20th century saw several new ventures open, from fine art and craft studios to antique shops, cafés and restaurants. To this day, arts, crafts, antiques and wineries remain the town's main drawcards.

Take a short stroll through town to discover more about the stories that have shaped Bungendore into what it is today. Learn more about stories of bushrangers and the town's social scene in the early 1900s, and visit shopfronts and pubs that have stood the test of time.

This trail has been created by the Rotary Club of Bungendore referencing well-informed sources. For more information on source material, visit treasuretrail.com.au.

History Trail



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1 The Carrington Inn

Cnr Ellendon & Malbon Sts. Built in 1885 as a coaching inn, it was also a stopping point for Cobb & Co Coaches. The building featured an indoor kitchen and a brick baking oven which were very rare at the time. The building was used as a general store, tavern, a stock & station agency and a private residence. A major renovation took place in 1983 creating The Carrington Inn Motel and Restaurant.



2 War Memorial Hall

51 Molonglo St. Originally built as The Federal Hall and opened on 6 December 1912. The hall was used regularly for the showing of silent movies. The hall was changed to the War Memorial Hall sometime after 1951. The building has operated under a trust from the 1950s onwards.



4 The Malbon

2 Malbon St. Within The Malbon, on the corner of Malbon and Molonglo Streets, the owners have established 'The Lake Room' which showcases interesting newspaper articles, a video, and other information about Lake George – worth a stop to find out more.



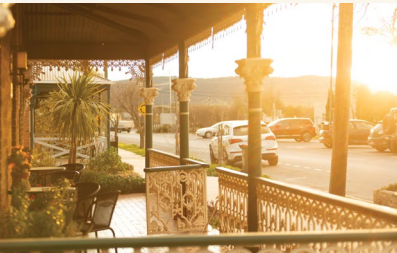
5 Beehive Hotel

22 Molonglo St. An early Victorian building of a classic Georgian style and the oldest most intact building in Bungendore. The Beehive Hotel was opened in March 1859 and renamed the Commercial in 1866 and finally closed in 1907. The building is well remembered as a greengrocers in the 1920s and thereafter has been a private residence.



6 Oriental Bank

23 Molonglo St. A white colonial-style building with a large front verandah erected in the 1870s by the bank. The Oriental Bank was suspended from trading in 1884 and went into liquidation. The Commonwealth Banking Corporation acquired the site in 1884-85.



7 Strathmore

13 Gibraltar St. A High Victorian house built in 1890 with a wide verandah complete with French doors and wrought-iron lacework. The house next door, number 11, is a pair to number 13 and was built around the same time.



8 Bakery

18 Gibraltar St. Most likely built in the 1840s with a barn at the rear that was used by Cobb & Co stagecoaches. The building was the Australian Store, P Donoghoe & Sons, General Merchants and Grocery & Drapery in the 1930s.



9 Lake George Hotel

20 Gibraltar St. This is one of Australia's oldest continuously licensed hotels. The hotel first opened in 1838 as the Harp Hotel. In 1881, a verandah was added to the upper storey. It was destroyed by fire in 1964 and rebuilt as a single storey hotel.



16 Royal Hotel

34 Gibraltar St. Opened in 1883 but it was not the first Royal Hotel in town (see site 13). The business remained much loved within the community, and saw various owners through the '70s, '80s, and '90s, until 2020 when it was closed for renovations and reopened in late 2023.



11 CWA Hall

40 Gibraltar St. The Country Women's Association officially opened in what was a new building at its present site in 1952. The building is representative of a typical rural community building of its time. At the time of opening, the building comprised a rest room, a baby health centre and a children's free library.



12 St Philip's Church

Cnr Butmaroo & Gibraltar Sts. St Philip's Anglican Church was constructed in the Gothic style popular during the 19th century. The foundation stone was laid on 21 September, 1864 and officially opened on 14 May, 1865. The current rectory, located adjacent to the church on the southern side, was built in 1924-1925.



13 Old Royal Hotel

33 Turallo Terrace. The original Royal Hotel, then the Royal Terrace, was built in the 1850s in the days of gold currency and was originally a 16-room Coaching Inn. It remained open until the 'new' Royal was built in Gibraltar St and then converted to a private residence.



14 St Mary's Church

30 Turallo Terrace. The foundation stone of St Mary's was laid on 25 May, 1851 but building did not begin immediately. The delay in building the church may well have been linked to the Victorian gold rush. The first marriage was recorded in 1863 and in 1886 the presbytery, a 4-bedroom cottage, was built.



15 Old St Joseph's Convent

52-54 Turallo Terrace. Completed in 1891 and officially opened on 27 September, 1891, it is a two-storied edifice, built of red bricks with a wide arched verandah below. Mother (now Saint) Mary MacKillop, the co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph, visited the convent on four occasions between 1895 and 1901.



16 Preschool

64 Turallo Terrace. The foundation stone was solemnly blessed by the Bishop of Goulburn on 3rd May, 1925, however the school operated out of the St Mary's Church Hall and was run by the Sisters of St Joseph for 37 years prior to a purpose-built building being constructed. It closed as a school in 1975.



17 Mick Sherd Oval

Between Gibraltar St & Turallo Terrace. Bungendore Park was dedicated on 3 October, 1884 and established and proclaimed on 4 August, 1886. Rugby League, Rugby and Cricket were played at the oval. Tennis courts were built at the oval over 100 years ago and the Bungendore Swimming Pool was officially opened on 30 November, 1991.



18 War Memorial

Gibraltar St. The Soldiers' Memorial was completed in May 1924. The memorial was rededicated on 11 November, 1999, subsequent to an upgrade of the Rolls of Honour, including the Second World War and post-1945 conflicts.



19 Police Station

45 Gibraltar St. The Police Station started its life as the Bungendore Court House, completed in 1875. There were cells out the back and also a stable. Just after the proclamation of Bungendore as a town, the site served as a lock up which was built in 1838.



20 Old Post Office

55 Gibraltar St. Built 1895-96. The first Post Office was on Molonglo St opening in 1840. Mail deliveries had commenced 4 years earlier. In 1873, funds were sought for a new Post Office due to the current one being a disgrace with the frontage being constantly "knee deep in mud and slush of a very filthy description". Ten years later, a new Post Office was opened at 11 Gibraltar Street, then moved to this location in 1896, and finally to its current location in 2021.



21 School of Arts

57 Gibraltar St. Construction of the building was commenced in late 1890 and completed in mid 1891. It is a weatherboard building consisting of three main rooms, a hallway and the amenities located out the back. A kitchenette was included in the largest room sometime after initial construction (date unknown).



22 Primary School

59-65 Gibraltar St. The Primary School was established in 1868. In 1878, the Public School Board called for tenders for the construction of the new school to accommodate 120 pupils and it was officially opened on January 29, 1880.



23 Railway Station

Majara St. The Railway Station was built in Victorian Gothic Style in 1884-85 and was officially opened on 4 March, 1885. The Station Master's and Gate Keeper's houses were both built north of the railway station at the same time as the station.



24 Old Presbyterian Church

48 Butmaroo St. Construction of this church began in early 1875. Due to the arrival of the railway line to Bungendore the church was moved to this present site, brick by brick, and reopened in October 1886.



25 Village Square

Cnr Ellendon & Malbon Sts. The oldest building on the site dates back to the 1870s. It was a general store and then a butcher's shop from the early 1910s until around 1982.



26 Leather Shop

Cnr Ellendon & Malbon Sts. Built in 1917, the building is made from large concrete blocks/bricks and has a distinctive lantern top, return verandah with timber posts, hardwood floors and pine lined roof with exposed Oregon trusses. Many of the original features of the building have been maintained.



27 Wood Works Gallery

Cnr Ellendon & Malbon Sts. Work on the Gallery commenced in 1993, using all Australian timber with 16 tonnes of West Australian Jarrah used for posts and beams and 10 tonnes of Tasmanian Oak for the floors, ebonised Victorian ash for windows and door frames and flooded gum panelling. The Gallery was opened in 1994.

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