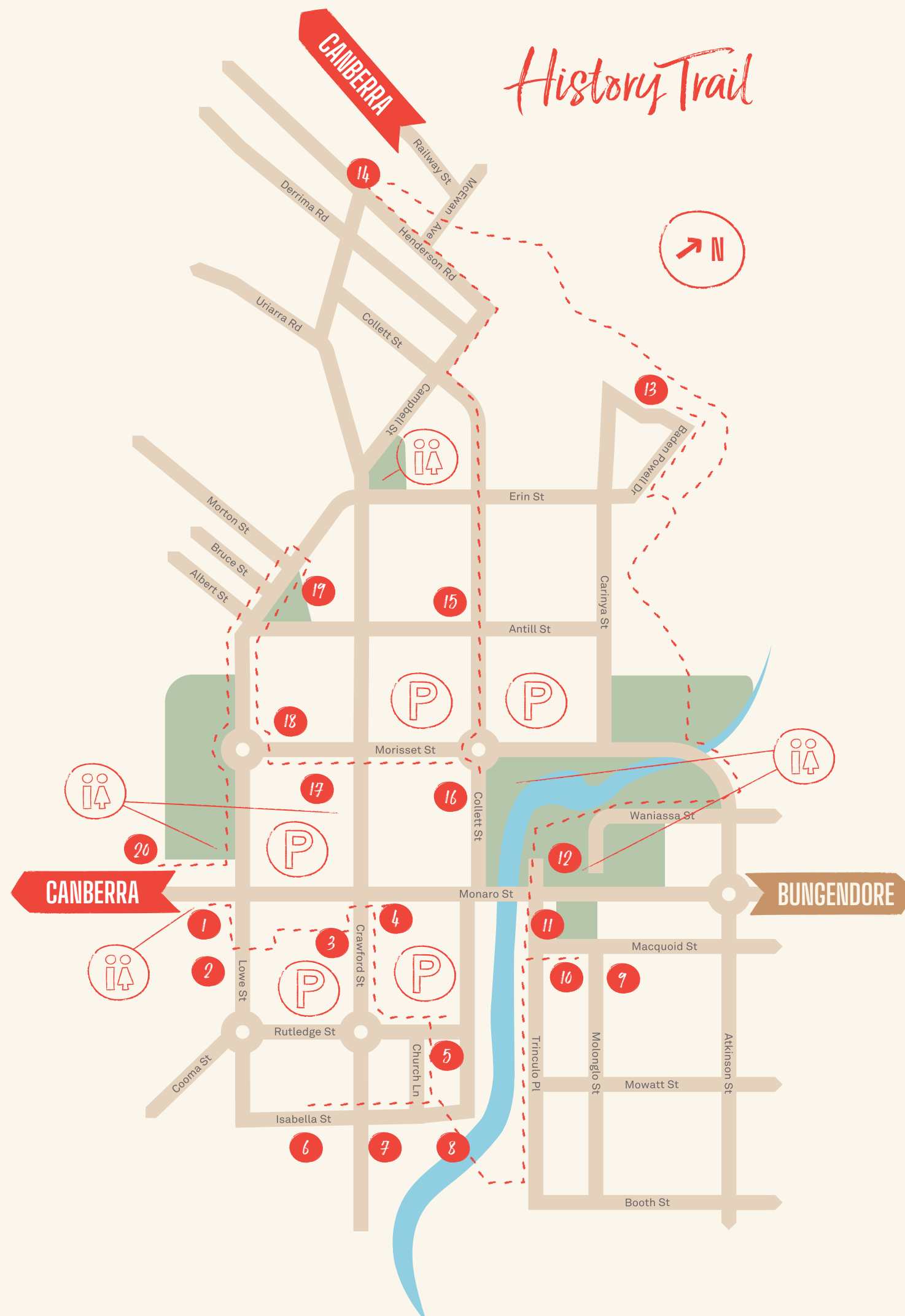# THE TREASURE TRAIL

QUEANBEYAN

History Trail

About

There's more to Queanbeyan than first meets the eye. Nestled among the city's bustling hotels, cafés and restaurants is a town full of history, dating back to the early 1800s.

The land has been home to some of the world's oldest known cultures for tens of thousands of years, before it was discovered by Europeans in 1820. However, it wasn't until 1828 that the first European settlers arrived in the area, establishing a settlement named 'Quinbean' on the banks of the Molonglo River, deriving its name from the Aboriginal term for 'clear water'.

Fast forward to 1838, and Queanbeyan was officially declared a township, boasting a modest population of around 50 residents. The 1850s saw the town flourish with the discovery of gold traces, and the brief operation of lead and silver mines. This period also witnessed the establishment of banks, schools, and the town's inaugural newspaper.

In 1887, a pivotal moment arrived with the opening of a railway station, connecting Queanbeyan to Canberra and Bungendore. Nearly a century later, in 1972, Queanbeyan was granted city status, and since then has emerged as one of the most rapidly burgeoning cities in NSW.

History Trail

CANBERRA

CANBERRA

BUNGENDORE

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Street labels: Railway St, McEwan Ave, Derrima Rd, Henderson Rd, Uriarra Rd, Collett St, Campbell St, Baden Powell Dr, Morton St, Bruce St, Albert St, Erin St, Carinya St, Antill St, Morisset St, Waniassa St, Collett St, Monaro St, Crawford St, Lowe St, Macquoid St, Rutledge St, Cooma St, Church Ln, Isabella St, Trinculo Pl, Molonglo St, Mowatt St, Atkinson St, Booth St

#	Place	#	Place
1	Farrer Place	11	The Kent Hotel
2	Queanbeyan Showground	12	O'Neill's Cottage
3	Queanbeyan Heritage Library	13	Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery
4	The Evans Building	14	Queanbeyan Railway Station
5	Christ Church	15	Rusten House
6	Isabella Public School	16	Byrne's Mill & Cottage
7	St Benedict's Convent	17	Furlong House
8	Suspension Bridge	18	St Stephen's Presbyterian Church
9	St Gregory's Catholic Church	19	Boer War Memorial
10	Dog and Stile Inn	20	Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum

QUEANBEYAN

History Trail

1 Farrer Place

1 Farrer Place. The old Queanbeyan Municipal Council building at Farrer Place was built in 1925. The gardens contain significant memorials recognising the involvement of local residents in various war efforts. The scientifically correct sundial was a gift from Nathan Lazarus in 1860 to the people of Queanbeyan to provide them with an accurate timepiece.

2 Queanbeyan Showground

Lowe St. Once an Aboriginal camping site, the area began to be cleared in the 1880s. It was officially made a showground in 1893, with the memorial entrance gates built in 1934.

3 Queanbeyan Heritage Library

253 Crawford St. In 1927, the old Queanbeyan Council Chambers were built at a cost of 3,500 pounds as the permanent home for the Queanbeyan School of Arts. The building was designed by J W Sproule in Georgian Revival Style and is listed by the NSW Heritage Commission. The building is now home to the Queanbeyan Heritage Library.

4 The Evans Building

112 Monaro St. Also known as the old School of Arts, the Evans Building on Monaro St was built by Edwin Oswald Evans in 1867 and was purchased by the Queanbeyan School of Arts in 1894. It remained a School of Arts and has since housed, for example, the offices of the Queanbeyan Age.

5 Christ Church

39 Rutledge St. The Christ Church on Rutledge St was the first church and school in the Queanbeyan district, dating back to mid-1800s. The heritage buildings include the stone church (c. 1860), the brick rectory (c. 1872), white-washed stone stables and the schoolhouse at the back (c. 1843).

6 Isabella Public School

Cnr Isabella St and Crawford St. Nestled in the corner of Isabella and Crawford Sts, the stone schoolhouse was built in 1877. It was the first public school in the area.

7 St Benedict's Convent

39 Isabella St. St Benedict's Convent was built in 1882 as a convent and school for the Queanbeyan and District Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

8 Suspension Bridge

Originally built in 1901 to replace the stepping stones that were submerged by the weir. The superstructure was washed away in the floods of 1925 and replaced in 1938.

9 St Gregory's Catholic Church

27 Molonglo St. Built by Daniel McCloskey in 1849-50, this is Queanbeyan's oldest remaining church on the eastern side of the river.

10 Dog and Stile Inn

11-13 Macquoid St. Built in the 1840s, Dog and Stile Inn was the second licensed establishment in the area.

11 The Kent Hotel

2 Macquoid St. Also known as Ye Old Kent House, the Kent Hotel was built for William Hunt as an elaborate inn in 1849-50. The inn contains a ballroom, 12 large bedrooms, 13 parlours and a stone cellar.

12 O'Neill's Cottage

6 Trinculo Pl. Built for the first Mayor of Queanbeyan, John James Wright, around 1880. The first occupant was James O'Neill, mail contractor and coach proprietor, along with his family. The cottage is now a gallery and workspace for the Queanbeyan Art Society.

13 Queanbeyan Riverside Cemetery

40 Erin St. First cemetery in the district. Many of Canberra's first European settlers are buried here. The oldest headstone is that of Anne Powell in 1847.

14 Queanbeyan Railway Station

Henderson Rd. The station officially opened in 1887. The line connects to Bungendore station, built in 1885, and the Canberra station, which opened in 1913.

15 Rusten House

Cnr Collett St and Antill St. Built in 1861, Rusten House is one of Queanbeyan's most significant properties. Originally built to replace the Benevolent Asylum to serve the more affluent community, by the early twentieth century Rusten House became a community hospital, then a nurses' dormitory during the 1930s. It is listed as a Heritage Item on the State Heritage Register, and now houses an art centre.

16 Byrne's Mill & Cottage

55 Collett St. Byrne's Steam Flour Mill was the 6th flour mill in Queanbeyan, built in 1883. It ceased operations in 1889 and became a storehouse.

17 Furlong House

15 Morisset St. Built in the 1850s for William Hunt, the owner of Queanbeyan's first licensed establishments.

18 St Stephen's Presbyterian Church

Cnr Morisset St and Lowe St. St Stephen's Presbyterian Church was built in the early 1870s and opened in March 1874.

19 Boer War Memorial

Moore Park. Boer War Memorial was first erected in 1903 in the centre of the Monaro and Crawford street intersection. It is one of the oldest Boer War Memorials in New South Wales.

20 Queanbeyan and District Historical Museum

10 - 20 Farrer Pl. Built in 1876, the building originally served as the Police Sergeant's Residence for close to 100 years. Now, it houses a collection of over 5,000 historical items.

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