Pambula Village History Trail:
By Angela George and Pat Raymond.

Introduction:

Forming part of Yuin country, the Thaua Aboriginal people have lived on and cared for the local area for countless centuries. Middens around Broadwater Lake and Pambula River date back to at least 3,000 years before present, illustrating a lengthy and lasting relationship with the district. In the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to the elders, past, present, and emerging.

The town name of "Pambula" comes from the local Thaua language, "Pamboola", meaning "twin waters", which is believed to refer to the meeting of salt and fresh, something that occurs at various points in the locality. Early European spellings were "Panboola" and "Panbula".

The first recorded European contact came in 1797 when shipwrecked sailors from the *Sydney Cove* walked through the area on their three-month 700-kilometre trek from Ninety Mile Beach (Victoria) to Port Jackson in Sydney. Armed with information gleaned from the group, Governor Hunter sent George Bass on a voyage southward to examine the coast. With a crew of six naval oarsmen and six weeks' provisions, Bass departed Sydney in an 8.6 metre sloop in December 1797. He and his party returned eleven weeks later, having explored more than 1,900 kilometres of coastline.

Among the spots visited by the party was the inlet they entered on 8 December. Bass recorded in his journal *"At 10 am, seeing the mouth of the inlet did not break, we went in and examined it. Were it not for the extreme shallowness of the bar, this little inlet would be a complete harbour for small craft, but a small boat even must watch her times going in. At high water, there is not more than 8 or 9 feet. The upper part of this place is a kind of a lagoon or at least a flat, but the lower part downwards as far as the bar is one of the prettiest little harbours as to form that was perhaps ever seen. One would take it to have been intended as the model of some large deep harbour. Every small bight has its little white sandy beach, and every turning its firm rocky point… The ground round it as far as I examined is rocky and barren in front, and low and salt at the head of it… I have named this place Barmouth Creek."* Due to the inaccuracies in Bass's readings, the location of this spot has been a point of debate for many years - is it Pambula River? Bega River? Or even Mogareeka? And will anyone ever solve the mystery for certain?

Bass was followed by Captain William Edwardson in 1822. During his voyage, he took soundings along the coastline from Merimbula to Pambula, referring to the area as Barmouth Bay (now Merimbula Bay) and continuing his observations up what he called Barmouth Creek (now Pambula River).

It was another decade after Edwardson's visit before European settlement began to encroach on the local Thaua people. In the early 1830s, the three Imlay brothers – Peter, George, and Alexander – established livestock runs and crop holdings on the Pambula Flats. Looking southward down Quondola Street, you can still see this area.

Surveyor Thomas Townsend surveyed and drew up plans for the original township of Panbula (as it was then known) in 1843. Located on the river flats, it included a school, hotel, and public pound, along with a cemetery, where four graves inside a wooden enclosure remain visible today.

Being a flood plain, however, frequent inundations during the 1850s and '60s forced the township to relocate to higher ground south at Yowaka (now South Pambula) and north to the present Pambula township. Although parts of the flats are private property, you can explore some areas on a walk through the Panboola Wetlands.

Agricultural and pastoral industries flourished and over the years, Pambula became an important supplier of beef, tallow, hides, bacon, potatoes, and turnips. Dairying commenced in the 1850s and '60s, and a butter factory was established near Lochiel in 1898, the output being sold on metropolitan and international markets. With the continuing growth of Bega Cheese, it remains a strong industry in the Bega Valley today.

From the 1860s, extensive maize crops were planted on the Pambula Flats with much of the output going to Merimbula's maizena factory. Following the 1928 opening of Kellogg's factory in Sydney, crops were supplied to that company, the Pambula district becoming one of the major suppliers for their famous Corn Flakes.

Well known for its readily available, good quality hardwood, it is unsurprising that hewn and sawn timber became the predominant building material. Historic weatherboard structures remain throughout the township, many featuring high-pitched rooflines and fronted by the typical Australian verandah. From the late 1890s through until the mid-1900s, sleeper cutting was an important local industry, the output being shipped not only across Australia, but also to New Zealand, India, China, South Africa, and Europe.

Gold was detected locally as early as 1852, but it wasn't until 1889 that it was found in payable amounts, sparking a rush to the area. The population exploded and before long, villages sprung up at Mount Gahan and Pipeclay Creek.

Pambula's famed native oysters were sought after first by the local Thaua people and then the European settlers that followed. By the 1880s, the river and lake were being farmed and now, almost a century and a half later, the output graces the best restaurants in Australia and overseas. Locals and visitors alike are spoilt by being able to purchase the salty delicacies fresh from the farms at a fraction of the price elsewhere.

 In 1884 it was decreed that the town would be called Pambula and not Panbula and the following year, the township was proclaimed. It remained the commercial centre for many decades, boasting banks, businesses, and a newspaper, as well as a police station and courthouse, school, hospital, hall, and churches. Transportation developed from horse and bullock teams and coastal steamers to cars, buses, and air services, advances unimaginable a century ago.

A wander through the township quickly shows that Pambula has an incredibly long and strong tradition of treasuring our heritage, ensuring that it enjoys multiple incarnations while injecting a sense of pride in the place for current and future generations. Despite some development in more recent decades, the town has managed to retain an enviable number of heritage buildings and sites, clearly linking the past with the present – and the future. The town is proud of its old-world charm and strong sense of community spirit - something you are bound to experience as you stroll through the streets and visit our businesses.

Our history trail gives you a peek into the past of some of these places - and as you will see, each and every one has a unique but equally fascinating tale to tell. Enjoy exploring our town and all it has to offer. Pop into those buildings open to the public, but also be aware that some of those included in the walk are private and so are not accessible. Please respect the rights of those owners and residents.

START AT JD'S MEATS   **21 QUONDOLA STREET**

This imposing brick building was erected in 1914 by George Tomkins and son Sydney for the Australian Bank of Commerce (AB of C). That firm began its existence in Sydney in 1853 as the Australian Joint Stock Bank (AJS Bank), operating under that banner until 1910 when it was reorganised under the new name. Pambula's branch opened as the AJS in 1883, leasing a building *"...belonging to that enterprising townsman Mr. John Behl..."* and located a couple of blocks to the north where the Pambula Plaza complex now stands. It remained there until relocating to this building.

After the bank closed its Pambula branch in 1927, Godfrey brothers purchased this property and from 1928 it was leased for offices by the Pambula Co-operative Creamery and Dairy Company. This proved a real boon for the township, with factory suppliers coming to Pambula once a month for the Saturday shareholder meetings, collecting their cheques and settling accounts with various local businesses. While they were waiting, women and children attended to the shopping at Pambula's numerous general stores, butchers, bakeries, frock shop, stationer and chemist then gathering for a meal in one of the town's cafes before heading home. The factory office had the effect of almost ensuring that dairy farmers kept their custom in Pambula and is probably one of the main reasons why the town remained a commercial centre for so many years.

While the dairy co-op occupied the building, the Pambula branch of the Primary Producer's Union shared the office; and after fire destroyed the Pambula Post Office in 1936, that also took up temporary occupancy.

Mr. J. D. Buckett purchased the building in 1940, followed by the dairy co-op who bought it in the 1960s. However, with so many farmers shifting from dairying to beef cattle after WWII, the industry's outlook continued to decline and in 1974, the company was wound up. Shortly afterwards, local resident Ian Robinson purchased the former bank building and converted it to a butchery, which it has remained for almost half a century. It is now home to JD's meats.

It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

TO CONTINUE YOUR TOUR, TURN RIGHT.

PAMBULA SUPERMARKET   **19 QUONDOLA STREET**

Built in 1934, this unassuming building is closely associated with "Syrian" hawker turned storekeeper Eric Coorey and is an important link with the opportunities available to immigrants in rural Australia during the 20th century.

Although the terms "Syrian" and "Assyrian" were used liberally during the 19th and early 20th century, they really described Middle Eastern immigrants hailing from a broad geographic area, including Syrians, Turks, Egyptians, Greeks, Armenians, and Lebanese. Then under Ottoman rule, the area formed part of the province of "Greater Syria", so many early arrivals from that region were referred to under the generalised term of "Syrians". It was not until the post-WWI period that this began change in response to the shifting political landscape in their homeland. By the 1940s and '50s, with the development of an independent Lebanon, this group came to be recognised as "Lebanese". This also explains the misconception that the Lebanese as an ethnic and cultural group did not begin arriving in Australia until the second part of the 20th century.

In fact, small numbers had been landing in the Australian colonies by the 1870s, increasing during the 1880s. By the 1890s, there was a "sharp and sudden" increase in arrivals from "Syria" (Lebanon) during what was described as a "mass exodus" from their homeland. This mirrored the general pattern of emigration from "Syria" (Lebanon) as people moved to escape Turkish oppression, religious and political persecution and deteriorating economic conditions.

This first wave of "Syrian" (Lebanese) immigrants were characterised by a pattern of self-employment, with the majority pursuing activities such as hawking and rural-based storekeeping. Their particular involvement with the hawking trade is probably explained by the fact that they had meagre cash at their disposal, spoke little English and possessed few marketable skills. The various forms of official and social discrimination also added to the difficulty in finding employment in labouring industries dominated by Anglo-Celtics.

Gradually, as transportation improved and goods became increasingly accessible even in isolated areas, the hawking trade diminished, and many turned to store keeping.

Like many other Lebanese immigrants, Eric Coorey traipsed the highways and byways, hawking his wares throughout the far south coast and Monaro regions for many years. Then, around the late 1920s, he took the premises that previously stood on this site, establishing a general store and becoming a firm favourite with the local sleeper cutting fraternity as he was one of very few storekeepers who would deliver supplies to their bush camps.

Regrettably, in 1931, a fire completely destroyed the building and its contents, the site remaining vacant until 1934, when Eric contracted local builder Bernie Koerber to construct a new store and attached residence. Named the Rural Distributing Store, his window displays soon became a popular talking point for residents,

Yet despite operating a successful business and playing such an active role in community affairs, Eric was unable to read and write. Once the local school master Alan Wilks learnt of this, he made it his business to teach Eric. Kevin Wilks remembered *"Eric Coorey at that stage was running a remarkably successful business in Pambula, and it turned out that he was absolutely illiterate, and my father being a schoolteacher, coached him privately at night so that he could read and write. He was already a successful businessman, but he couldn't read and write."*

This block of land has reportedly been associated with commercial and retail activities since the earliest days of European settlement. And since the construction of the present building, it has been continuously used as a general store and then, in more recent years, as their modern-day counterpart, the supermarket. Previous operators included the Gill, Harding, Hopkins, Davis, Souris, and Olsen families. Wells located at the rear of the shop are apparently amongst the best in the district and may date back to the original store building.

Although seemingly humble in appearance, its lengthy association with business activities makes it an important part of local heritage. It is a valuable tangible link with shifting retail and commercial activities, and of changing work and living practices. It also illustrates how disasters such as fires can irrevocably alter the streetscape. It is an unusual remnant example of its type and era in Pambula and serves as a reminder of changes in building practices and styles at the time of its construction.

It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

CONTINUE NORTH

The site where the Pambula Plaza complex now stands was occupied by the Pambula branch of the Australian Joint Stock Bank (later known as the Australian Bank of Commerce) from 1883 until 1914. Built for John Behl (you'll hear plenty about him as you tour our town), it was later used for residential accommodation until being demolished by Karl Posselt to build the existing Pambula Plaza complex.

CONTINUE NORTH

WEATHERBOARD HOUSE   **15 QUONDOLA STREET**
Next, you're passing a verandaed weatherboard house typical of Pambula architecture. It was constructed around 1899, possibly by Job Koerber. As well as a residence, it was used for many years as a pharmacy by chemists such as Mr. Marsden, Agnes Watson, Mr. Terrell, and Beasley's. It is now a private residence and is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

NEXT YOU WILL COME TO…

PAMBULA TOWN HALL   **13 QUONDOLA ST**
Like so many other places across Australia, the Pambula Town Hall has been the heart of the community since the first building was erected on the other side of Quondola Street in 1883.

Then known as the School of Arts, it was built by Nicholas Bouquet on land donated by John Behl (remember him?).

The School of Arts movement was founded in Edinburgh, Scotland, to support the education of members by sharing knowledge and promoting literature, science, and the arts. Also known as Mechanics, Railways or Literary Institutes, the Australian colonies embraced the idea, and it became more widespread and influential per capita than in any other part of the British Empire.

Pambula's School of Arts was founded in July 1882, the inaugural executive consisting of John Martin Snr; O. Wrightson; and John Behl (there he is again). As well as maintaining a library of books, newspapers, and periodicals, it also provided a venue for lectures, public meetings, concerts, recitals and, of course, balls where many a romance reportedly blossomed.

By 1901, the community had outgrown the original building, but the site was not large enough to support extensions. The current block was purchased in 1904 and the original handwritten Declaration of Trust dated 31 October that year between C. A. Baddeley, J. H. Martin, and W. D. Pfeiffer of behalf of the School of Arts committee and William James Tweedie, owner, is in the Bega Valley Genealogy Society's collection. It can be viewed by prior arrangement at their rooms in the Old Pambula Court House and Police Station (which is included as part of this tour).

Finally, after many delays and interruptions, the committee decided in 1921 to remove the existing structure to the new site, while utilising the extra space for extensions. Local builder Job Koerber drew up plans and specifications and, after approval by the authorities controlling public halls, his tender was accepted for the project. Works were completed in 1922, with an official opening and ball taking place in August, when *"...the new hall was overflowing filled with dancers, of whom over 100 couples were present."*

Pambula reportedly always had good crowds at their balls because it was renowned for the delicious cakes and trifles served up at supper. In 1944, the Pambula Diggers' Ball took place in the hall, with the then New South Wales premier William McKell attending as the guest of honour and officially opening the event. He had been born in Pambula decades earlier and later became Governor General of Australia.

Silent movie screenings began in 1921, followed by the talkies in 1932. A new picture screening box was installed in the brick addition at the front of the building in 1929. The Saturday night pictures proved a great drawcard for the town, with all the tables at both cafes full both before and after, and, of course, the usual jaffas rolling down the aisles between the seats once the lights went down.

Now known as the Pambula Town Hall, it remains a social and cultural hub for the local community. It houses a number of honour rolls, including Pambula's World War I Red Cross Roll of Honour, rescued from the porch of the burning post office in 1936. The artwork on the northern wall is by local indigenous artist Cheryl Davison.

The venue is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE   **11 QUONDOLA STREET**

This is another important example of a typically Pambula weatherboard building. Constructed around the early 1900s, again possibly by Job Koerber and apparently for George Carl Behl, it passed to his wife Mary and their surviving children after George's death in 1910. In 1914 it was bought by John and Rose Ann Dowling of Punt Hole Farm, South Pambula, and following John's death in 1930, Rose Ann moved into the cottage, taking in borders for many years, including young female assistant teachers from the local public school. Subsequent owners and occupiers included Nea and John Dorl, the Hendersons, Doyles and Mitchells.

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To the north, the block at 7 Quondola Street was previously occupied by a weatherboard building erected in 1913 / 14 by James Dowling as lodge rooms for the Pambula chapter of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity. After that organisation folded, it was used by travelling salesmen to display their wares, and then by Eric Coorey for the drapery portion of his Rural Distributing Stores business. It was also used for Anglican services and ceremonies during the 1950s while the current Christ Church was being constructed. In 1965, it was dedicated as St Columba's Presbyterian Church, later becoming the Uniting Church. On 10 October 2004 the last church service was held in the building and in May 2008, it was relocated to the corner of Quondola and Bullara Streets alongside Christ Church (which you will see later during the tour) where it is used as a hall.

CROSS THE HIGHWAY, TAKING CARE OF TRAFFIC.

LATE VICTORIAN RESIDENCE   **16 QUONDOLA STREET**

Originally purchased by former convict James Dunn, the date of this cottage's construction is uncertain, but it was probably around the 1870s. Certainly, by 1875, James Mahoney and his family were living here, remaining at least until 1903 when his wife Ellen passed away. Baker and photographer Harold Hocraft and his wife also occupied the cottage from around 1908 until they left Pambula in 1911.

Arthur Kennedy had taken up residence by 1912, operating his bicycle sales and repair business from a building that previously stood just to the north of the cottage. Following his death, it was home to Mrs. Wally Smith. During John Moffatt's ownership, Sue Chandler operated her Pambula Physiotherapy Centre here; and at various times, it has also housed craft and collectables businesses. It is now a private residence.

Retaining many of its original exterior features, it is an excellent example of the many small weatherboard cottages that once dominated Pambula's streetscapes, but which are now increasingly rare.

It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

Continuing down Quondola Street, you will pass the accountancy firm Tanner and Salt. Part of this site was once occupied by the Pambula School of Arts.

Next to that is the Pambula branch of the Bendigo Bank. This site was previously occupied by the Pambula telegraph office, constructed in about 1880 by John Behl (who else?) and provided rent free to that department until 1882. His son in law Edward Cornell was the town's first telegraph master; and in 1882 also took over the postmaster's position from Charles Henry Baddeley.

Behl advised Cornell and the Department in December 1882 that he was going to start charging rent on the building at the beginning of 1883. That year, a branch of the Government Savings Bank opened in the office, and in July 1890, Postmaster Cornell reported that a goldfield was about to open three miles from the township, the population increase seeing his wife engaged as postal assistant.

In 1886 Behl offered his newly erected premises further down Toallo Street for the post and telegraph office, the Department accepting the proposal. This building was then used as offices for the Mining Warden and later the Fisheries Department, Denham's saddlery, solicitors Bland and Cunningham's offices, and from around the 1940s, as the Pambula District Hospital secretary's office. It was demolished around the 1960s. Although no good, complete photograph of building has yet been located, it is evident in a number of images of the surrounding streetscape.

TURN RIGHT INTO TOALLO STREET

TOAD HALL   **55 TOALLO STREET**
Perhaps one of the most distinctive and recognisable buildings in Pambula is the two-storey weatherboard building often referred to as "Toad Hall". Erected in about 1884 by Bob Haynes (or Haines) and Alec McPhee, for - guess who? - John Behl, it was known for many years as "Behl's two-storey" or "the two-storey". In August 1884, a local newspaper mentioned that Behl's recently erected building was *"...a most imposing two storey structure, and is at the present time being nicely painted by Mr. W. H. Cone. It has not transpired in our hearing what the building is to be devoted to, but since it has 8 or 9 rooms, it is suitable for almost any business, or family as a residence…"*

John had migrated from Bavaria to Australia via Bremen with his brother Philip in 1857, the pair landing in Sydney on the *Gottorp* in September that year. He purchased 31 acres 1 rood of land at Boggy Creek (Millingandi) near Pambula in 1859, his brother Phillip selecting 32 acres next to his holding. He worked as a "photographist" in Sydney, and in 1860 was shearing on the Monaro. After marrying Mary Clarke in Sydney in 1864, the couple moved to their Millingandi holding where their first two children were born.

After John's death in 1886, his properties, including the two storey, passed to his widow Mary and then, after her passing in 1896, to their son James. It was used as a general store until 1913 when it was rented by the Pambula School of Arts, with the library and reading rooms upstairs and card room on the ground floor. Following James' death in 1914, his wife Mary operated it as a boarding house until the 1920s.

From the late 1920s to the mid-1930s, it was home to the local Fisheries Inspector Mr. Gascoigne and his family. One account recalls his son Billy, two friends and a revolver that had made its way down the coast from Sydney where it had been used in a "razor gang" murder. As it was told, *"…a young chap used to spend the holidays with his grandmother, he lived at Darlinghurst and somebody murdered some bastard and threw the gun in a hedge. When he came in the school holidays, he had this gun. I think I swapped it for about twenty bloody rabbit skins and ten bob or some bloody thing. I got the gun anyhow, we tried shooting rabbits with it, but oh Christ they were hard to hit with that. This Billy Gascoigne, he lived at the two storey…he'd come up to my grandmother's place next to the School of Arts, him and Puddin' [Burgess]… I must have been having breakfast when they got there and they were sitting on the back step of the house and I heard a click and I don't know what the bloody hell he was doing with the friggin' revolver, he must have had his finger up and had it pointing at it, anyhow …they thought they'd emptied the magazine, and the next friggin' thing, bang, at the back door step, and he bloody near shot his finger off. He dropped the gun and he [held his hand to his stomach] and I jumped up from the table and ran out, I nearly fainted, I staggered, I thought he'd shot himself in the guts. He out the bloody gate and straight across to his mother, in the back door and out the front, she must have said, "go down to the doctors", so down the bloody main street, into the doctors… bloody near blew it off, it hit the bone and ran right through it, split it, cut it all open. [The doctor] stitched it up like a bloody old saveloy. We told the doctor that we were sharpening up pea rifle bullets to shoot sharks with, we thought the doctor swallowed that. He went and told [the policeman] old Bottrel, sure enough a few days later Bottrel turns up and says, "Where's that revolver you've got Terry?", I said "What are you talking about?" He said, "I know you've got it." I said, "I haven't got it," and I was right when I said I haven't got it… I don't know whether I rode a push bike or rode old Banjo the horse, but I went to Perch Rock, and I threw the bloody gun as far out into the ocean as I could throw it. And that's where it is today, a little bit of steel, out off Perch Rock… He never said to me "Have you ever had one?", he said, "Have you got one?"*

Owners Joseph D'Arcy Buckett, Bill Whitby, and Royston Clifford Cole followed and then it was purchased by Ronald and Barbara Hay for their craft and gift shop *Toad Hall*, then located in what is now Artessence Gallery (which you will visit later during this tour). Evonne and John Tanner later took over; with Merv Crane running his popular antiques and curios business from the building until his shock passing in 2017. It is now an historic homestay – harking back to its earlier boarding house roots.

It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

GLENAIRLIE   **61 - 65 TOALLO STREET**
The landmark *Glenairlie* was the home of Pambula Voice newspaper founder and editor William Daniel Pfeiffer and his family. William arrived in the town in 1892, after serving an apprenticeship with the Moruya Examiner. He then set up the short-lived Moruya Advance before coming to Pambula with the Advance's printing press and establishing a newspaper for the town.

The first edition of the Pambula Voice hit the stands on 27 August 1892, with William commenting in his editorial that *"Pambula and Eden evidently have a great future before them and if The Voice can do anything towards hastening along that desirable end it shall not be in vain."* Discussing his choice of a name, William noted that *"...at a public meeting held in Pambula a few months earlier to discuss the starting of the newspaper, one gentleman had said that Pambula had never been fairly represented to outsiders because it had no voice of its own – no newspaper to guard its interests."* And from that remark came the name of the Pambula Voice. Its full title could perhaps go down as the longest in the district - The Pambula Voice and Eden, Wyndham, Rocky Hall, Towamba, and Merimbula Advocate.

At the end of the first year of operation, Mr. Pfeiffer said *"The people have been provided with a Voice of their own and - while we make no claim to infallibility - we believe that the Voice has given satisfaction."*

The block on which *Glenairlie* stands was originally purchased by local police constable Adam Ballantine in 1855. Five years later, he sold it to cattle dealer William Abraham who, upon his death in 1873, left it to his wife Bridget for use during her life, after which it went to their son John in 1898. It seems that *Glenairlie* was built while the property was under Bridget's control, with J. E. Bennett possibly renting it until 1895, after which the Pfeiffer family may have moved in, although given that William didn't purchase it until 1901, they must have rented it first from Bridget Abraham and then her son John. Certainly the Pfeiffer family were living there by 1903 when William's wife gave birth to their son Vincent.

In 1904, William sold the Voice newspaper and moved to Mosman, but retained ownership of *Glenairlie* as well as the cottage on the corner of Toallo and Monaro Streets, renting them out to various people. Thomas Hardcastle, teacher at the Lochiel School moved in with his wife Elizabeth (daughter of Caroline and Alexander Robertson of the Commercial Hotel) in about 1906 but the following year, Elizabeth passed away, aged just 23 years, leaving her husband with four small children. Tom himself died at *Glenairlie* in 1910.

George Armstrong replaced Tom as teacher at Lochiel School in 1910 and also took up residence at *Glenairlie*, the property having undergone renovations beforehand. He was still there in 1916.

In 1920, William Pfeiffer wrote to G. R. Phillipps about selling *Glenairlie* and the neighbouring cottage, and in 1921, James Buckett of Millingandi purchased both properties. James and his wife Mary moved into the corner cottage and let *Glenairlie* out, Les Best possibly renting it for a period. James and Mary Buckett's daughter Mrs. Dyall Buckett sold *Glenairlie* to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hawkins in 1958.

"THE PINES"   **69 TOALLO STREET**
Like the block that *Glenairlie* now stands on, this corner lot was originally purchased in 1855 by local police constable Adam Ballantine. And like the *Glenairlie* land, he sold it to cattle dealer William Abraham. After Abraham died in 1873, it passed to his wife Bridget and following her death in 1898, to their son John.

In January 1901, John sold the block to *Pambula Voice* newspaper owner and editor William Daniel Pfeiffer, who had the cottage constructed in 1903. However, as the family lived in the larger *Glenairlie* house, it can be safely assumed that this building was erected specifically to let out.

After Pfeiffer sold the newspaper in 1904 and moved from the district, this and his other Pambula properties were rented out, and in 1910, local builder Job Koerber undertook repairs to this cottage. Constable Richard Bowern of the local police force moved in around 1913, remaining until about 1918.

In 1920, William Pfeiffer asked G. R. Phillips to sell his Pambula properties including the "top cottage" on half an acre of land, for £300. Then, in March 1921 he advised Phillips that "…Mr. Buckett of Millingandi…" had purchased it. The following year, he and his wife Mary moved in, leasing their Boggy Creek farm to two of their sons. They were eventually joined by their daughter Mary Margaret, ("Ciss") Dyall-Buckett.

James reportedly had one of Pambula's first cars, carrying mail and passengers between Eden and Bega, also transported the Boggy Creek cricket team to matches around the district.

Mary passed away in 1925, and by 1929, when James also died, the property had become known as The Pines. It then passed to "Ciss", who in 1930 married returned serviceman Mr. E. Hamilton Dyall, but just six years later, he also passed away. For 24 years, Ciss owned and ran the Pambula Newsagency, losing it during the disastrous 1936 Quondola Street fire. After re-establishing it, she continued to operate it until selling out in 1955.

Earl and Elvie Robertson followed, living in the cottage until their respective deaths.

Situated in a prominent position on the hillside overlooking the Pambula Flats, The Pines makes a positive contribution to the town's historic atmosphere. An excellent example of the domestic weatherboard architecture that once dominated Pambula, it remains an important and identifiable local landmark.

It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

TURN RIGHT INTO MONARO STREET AND HEAD IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION UP THE HILL

WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE   11 MONARO STREET
Built around the 1890s, this is an excellent example of the increasingly rare but once plentiful small weatherboard cottages that once dominated Pambula.

The land was originally granted to Eden police officer John Marshall Walker before being sold to Wolumla general storekeeper Robert Beck, then local bootmaker Frederick Plowright in 1876. In 1897, he sold it to Harriett Morton Hamilton, wife of Pambula blacksmith and sawmill owner John Hamilton. Given its appearance, it is likely that the existing cottage was constructed during either the Plowright or Hamilton ownership.

Intriguingly, when Harriett Hamilton died in 1900, she left the property to John Leslie Neilson (better known as Jack), son of Andreas (Andrew) Christian Neilson and Susan (nee Bartley). Born in 1892, Jack was only eight when Harriet passed away, so it was held in trust for the lad by Harriet's husband John. A year after Harriet's death, Andreas Neilson also passed leaving Susan to raise seven children on her own, Jack, the youngest, just nine at the time. Then, in April 1902 Susan and John Hamilton married. Having no surviving natural children of his own, John doted on Jack, who took his stepfather's surname and became known as John Leslie Hamilton.

Local historian Pat Raymond in her comprehensive book *Remembering Bega Valley Servicemen of World War I – Battlefield and War Related Deaths* (2014, Bega Valley Genealogy Society) documents Jack's employment, war service history and death. After completing a two-year motor mechanics apprenticeship with Bega firm Peterson and Gjerstrup, he took up a position with Balmain Brothers, also in Bega. Then, in 1915, he purchased a new Overland five-seater car and went into the passenger transport business. Known for his skill as a driver, he was nicknamed "Hell Fire Jack" because of the speed he often travelled at – he once made the 257-mile (414 km) trip from Eden to Goulburn in the record time of eight and a half hours. Unfortunately, the following year, his car was destroyed after backfiring and erupting in flames.

With the carnage of WWI making headline news, Jack enlisted in the AIF, arriving in France with the 18th Battalion in February 1917. Writing home to his mother in April that year, he noted that: *"I have been in the front trenches a month, and have had some narrow escapes, we are now out for a few weeks spell. There is no doubt which side is the stronger, and I don't think there will be another winter here… Jim and Bert Clarke, of Lochiel, are here with me, both well. Mr. H. Lodge was camped about a quarter of a mile from me a week ago, but I did not know it. I have met a lot of chaps from the South Coast. Met Dick Wakeham and Les Caldwell in England just as I was leaving. I have no fear of looking at a dead body now. I have slept among dozens of them. I had my last birthday in the trenches. I was hit on the toe of the boot with a piece of shell, but it did not hurt and I secured the piece of metal as a souvenir. I was in a big hole with five others one day and Fritz fired 42 shells at us, but none of us were hit. I have seen several aeroplane duels, they are very exciting."*

Promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal that month, just four days later he was reported missing in action. Although there was some hope that he had been taken a prisoner-of-war, this theory was discounted after a Court of Enquiry in December 1917 determined that he had been killed in action on 3 May 1917. A Private Cunningham, also of the 18th Battalion, reported that *"Hamilton was killed at Bullecourt just near Fritz's 1st trench. I saw him killed."* He described Jack as a *"…grand rifle shot…"*

As Jack's remains were never found, he has no grave, but is remembered on the Villers Bretonneux Memorial. His name is also recorded on the Pambula Soldiers Memorial in Quondola Street and on the Pambula Red Cross Roll of Honor in the Pambula Town Hall.

Jack had appointed his stepfather John as his power of attorney to arrange the sale of Lot 18, Section 16, which was purchased by Mrs. Rachel Laing in July 1917 for £90. Although Jack

had, by then, already lost his life, neither his mother nor his stepfather was aware of his fate – in fact Susan didn't learn of Jack's death until January 1918.

After the passing of Rachael and Arthur Laing, their children sold the property to Ivy and John Laing, who left the cottage to their daughter Margaret (Meg) Haigh. It has recently undergone much needed restoration work and is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

Looking from this point to the top of the hill, you can just glimpse the current Pambula Public School. The school moved to this site in 1908, following two earlier locations. The existing complex opened in 1979 and when it celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1999, it was fourth oldest public school still in operation in NSW.

CROSS MONARO STREET AND HEAD SOUTH

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH   **16 MONARO STREET**
Not only Pambula's oldest house of worship but also the earliest remaining Catholic Church still in use in the Bega Valley Shire, St Peters stands as a reminder of the devotion of the district's early Catholic pioneers.

From the earliest days of European settlement, local Catholics relied on young itinerant Irish priests travelling on horseback to bring sacraments to the isolated community. By 1840, Father McGrath of Goulburn was ministering on the Far South Coast and from 1844 Father Kavanagh of Queanbeyan was visiting Pambula as part of his widespread parish. Known as the "apostle of the Monaro", he rode an estimated 40,000 miles (more than 64,000 km) over ten years doing his rounds.

By 1850, Father Henry Garnett, first Pastor of Broulee, had a parish extending to about where the Victorian border is now situated. Visiting Pambula between 1851 and 1857, he was responsible for overseeing construction of Pambula's first Catholic Church, a slab building probably located on the site still occupied today. In 1854 he made a *"...pastoral sojourn..."* to the town, bringing new vestments. Then, in 1855, it was reported that Reverend W. X. Johnson celebrated Divine Service in the new Church, which was *"...in an advanced state of erection, and which we understand will be dedicated to St. Mark; we anticipate its being completed in the course of two months..."* Occupying *"...a commanding site in the settlement...",* it was described as *"...a neat and pleasing structure..."* That structure was destroyed in an 1862 bushfire that also took several houses

Three years later, 29-year-old Irishman Father Patrick Slattery arrived, the first permanent Roman Catholic Priest of the then Parish of Twofold Bay. It was under his direction that Pambula's second and third Catholic Churches were erected.

Mr Shea was contracted to erect a simple weatherboard building in 1866; then, in 1867, work commenced on the existing St. Peter's, with experienced tradesman Patrick O'Connor engaged for the project. He had been involved with previous local projects, including the Seahorse Inn at Boydtown and the Governor Fitzroy on the Pambula Flat. Father Slattery

mentions the St. Peter's building project and his activities in general in his "saddle bag diary". Costing a total of £333/8/9, it was officially opened in July 1868.

By 1871, extensions to the church were planned and fundraisers such as *"…a grand pic-nic to Panbula Heads and a concert in the evening on a scale never before attempted here…"* were organised for a porch and sacristy. The contract for the stonework was awarded to mason James Vowles. Further additions and improvements were carried out in subsequent years.

In 1886, Father James Grace moved to Pambula, the first Catholic priest to live in the town. In the absence of a Presbytery, he boarded with – guess who? – John Behl and his family at the Forest Oak (now known as Covington's.) You will visit this property later during your tour.

Mother Mary Mackillop, foundress of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Australia's first saint, visited in 1901, staying at Jim Tier's Club Hotel in Monaro Street and inspecting land surrounding St Peter's which had been proposed for a Catholic primary school and convent. However, despite having a viable number of scholars, moves were never made to establish the facility, it continuing to operate from Eden instead.

Significant for its social and religious associations with the local community in general and the Catholic population in particular, St. Peter's is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

For Mass times, please visit http://cg.org.au/pambula/MassTimes.aspx

CONTINUE HEADING SOUTH DOWN MONARO STREET

THE OLD COURTHOUSE   **42 TOALLO ST**

Imagine being so determined to beat the long arm of the law that you would bite through an artery in your arm – but that's exactly what one prisoner in the Pambula lock up did.

After making *"…a sensational escape from a lavatory at the Supreme Court in Sydney…"* in June 1924, notorious criminal and prison escapee Louis Hart made his way down the coast to Pambula where he took a room in the Hotel Royal. After brazenly attending a function in the School of Arts, local police Sergeant Weston and Constable Grinham found him asleep in bed and took him in to custody. He was escorted to the lock-up, but during the night, in a *"…desperate attempt to get beyond the reach of the law…"* he bit through an artery in one of his arms and was found *"…bleeding freely from the wound…"* However, despite having lost a considerable amount of blood, he was treated by the Government Medical Officer, who declared him fit enough for the steamer trip back to Sydney.

This site has been associated with law and order in Pambula since 1857 - when a slab lock up was built here - until 1990 when the police residence closed. Over that period, it served as a police barracks, police station and residence, prisoner lockup, courthouse and paddock and stables for police horses.

Police were apparently stationed at Pambula in the late 1840s as part of the Twofold Bay force. In January 1858, the Panbula Court of Petty Sessions was proclaimed, and by 1859, a slab courthouse was in use, while a lock up was completed, along with a slab room at the rear for the officer in charge.

Construction of the current courthouse and police station took place between 1860 and 1861, and still forms part of the existing premises. Further works in 1895 saw the watchhouse and cells converted into a police residence with two detached cells erected at the western end of the building. Then, in 1897/98, extensions were carried out, including creation of the courtroom as it now stands.

Local police duties were amazingly varied. In 1896, business at the Pambula police office included the granting of 52 auctioneers, hawkers, tobacco, slaughtering, boat, and fishermen licenses, 29 small debt cases, 89 dog registrations, 21 arrests, 19 police summonses and 13 private summonses. In 1899, Sergeant Ewan appeared for the Education Department against parents for unpaid school fees or failing to send their children to school the requisite number of days; and in 1900, local police were involved in compiling electoral rolls. In 1907 Sergeant Kelly had to attend the cremation of "Hindoo" Bag Singh.

The local cops also had their own means of keeping young ones in line too – by keeping the police station firewood heap stocked: *"…I couldn't find a job so the bloody copper Bottrell sent me back to school… He got sick of it, I cut the bastard cords and cords of wood, and he said the best place for you is back at school. Old Puddin' Burgess and I cut some wood. Wasn't too sharp a saw either, bloody old crosscut saw, we had to pull our bloody guts out with it…he was all right though, old Bottrel, only trying to look after us…"*

Police also oversaw unemployment benefits during the Great Depression, but their presence in the small community sometimes had its drawbacks: *"…some bloke couldn't win a game of pool in Mitchell's Cafe in Pambula. He threw a half-smoked tailor-made cigarette on the floor and Dicky Wood picked it up. Dicky was unemployed at the time and was getting relief through the police station. Unfortunately Bottrell was walking past and saw him. On Saturday Dicky went up to the police station to get his dole and Bottrell said to him, "No dole for you Dicky. I saw you smoking a tailor-made the other day."*

With the ever-present fear of enemy invasion during World War II, a Volunteer Air Observer Corp lookout was established in a room (probably the sleepout area) on the verandah of the police station. Then, from 1977, during building work at nearby public school, the court room was used as a library for the local students.

Use of the cells at Pambula ended in 1978, followed by the police station in 1979, and the courthouse in 1984. The police residence closed in 1990.

In March 1992, the Bega Valley Genealogical Society leased the building from the NSW Lands Department for use as a research centre. After a two-and-a-half-year campaign by members and interested residents, it was handed over by the NSW State Government to Bega Valley Shire Council for public use.

The Society has installed an historic policing and justice exhibition in the courtroom and periodically host other special displays. It is open at the same time as the Society's family and local history research centre - Tuesday 1- 4 pm, Thursday 9.30 – 12.30pm and Saturday 1 - 4 pm, or by prior arrangement (phone 64957794 or email begagenealogy@bigpond.com)

Now the oldest remaining public building in the town, the complex is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan, and on a NSW heritage gaols register. It was also recorded on the now superseded Register of The National Estate.

BADDELEY'S COTTAGE   26 MONARO STREET

Home to one of Pambula's longest running businesses, Charles Henry Baddeley purchased allotments 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Section 12 in late 1865, the land transfer completed the following May. He moved immediately to establish Baddeley's Tannery, advertising in January 1866 for the delivery of dry wattle bark during March. Soon after commencing, he was joined by his son Charles Arthur, who, by 1867, was managing the firm.

The tannery building occupied an area of about eight by forty metres and stood behind and below the existing cottage. Producing leather for a variety of uses and markets, it soon became an important local industry, providing employment in the factory as well as to the suppliers of wattle bark and animal hides.

Around 1874, Charles Snr took his nephew William on as a business partner, and for the next few months, land transfers between the two were like a game of musical chairs. Then, a year after it was created, the partnership was dissolved and in January 1875, the business was advertised for sale *"…owing to a dissolution of partnership, one of the firm leaving for Europe in March next…"*

Finally, by May 1875, ownership of the company and associated land returned to Charles Henry who conducted it in his own right until his death in 1892. Charles Arthur then carried on until the late 1920s, sixty years after its establishment. Baddeley's tannery was forced to close when competition from overseas leather became too great. The various buildings and machinery gradually fell into disrepair, although one of the bark choppers is now in the Merimbula Old School Museum's collection.

These same four allotments were originally purchased by local businessman and farmer Charles Robertson in 1854 and 1855. He sold them to Kiah farmer Patrick Whelan in October 1856, then four years later local storekeeper Robert Beck Junior purchased them for £200. The following month he mortgaged the combined parcels to merchants Solomon and Henry Solomon.

Beck Jnr had been in business in Pambula since the 1850s, and like many others during the Kiandra goldrush, he moved to take advantage of the opportunities on offer. Unfortunately, though, the harsh high-country winter proved the downfall of many who had joined the rush – as well as many of those on the coast who extended themselves in response. Robert Beck Jnr was amongst their number, his estate sold to settle his debts. This included the Post Office Stores building, an adjoining cottage, and his land. Although the group seems to have been passed in at the June 1865 auction, in November it was reported that Charles Henry

Baddeley, *"…a gentleman well-known on Monaro as an enterprising and energetic businessman…"*, had purchased the property with the intention of opening *"…an extensive tannery…"* He was already running a similar business in Bombala.

In May 1866, ownership of the four lots were transferred from Solomon and Henry Solomon, merchants, of Eden and Bombala, to Charles Henry Baddeley who paid just £120 – a poor return on the Solomon's £483 loan to Beck.

After Beck Snr resigned as local postmaster in July 1865, John Henry Bennett took it on until Charles Henry Baddeley was appointed in January 1873. His son Charles Arthur acted as his assistant.

Charles Snr set the office up in the building previously occupied by Beck's Post Office Stores at the bottom of the Monaro Street hill where his family was residing. However, situated as it was on low lying marsh land near the northern side of the Pambula Flats, flooding was an ongoing issue. An 1871 letter to the Postmaster General noted that *"During flood time, Mr. Baddeley has to shift out of his house and…leave the Post Office to the [mercy] of the floods or else stand the chance of losing letters by attempting to remove the office every flood."* In 1873 local media reported that *"Our correspondent speaks of Panbula being visited by the heaviest flood he has known for 28 years…The water rose three feet in Mr. Baddeley's house…"*

By 1881, Charles Henry moved to rectify the situation by constructing *"…a building specially intended for a post office and fitted up with every convenience for carrying on the duties of the office, situated 60 yards from present site, adjoins the Court House, is immediately opposite the Public School premises and is in every respect more central and convenient to the public."* However, by that time, pressure was mounting to amalgamate the town's post and telegraph offices and on the inspector's recommendation, they were combined under the charge of telegraph master E. J. Cornell, Baddeley's new structure never being used for the purpose that it was built.

The postal construction was probably an addition to the premises now known as Baddeley's cottage but which, by the early 1900s, was named The Poplars. It was occupied by five generations of the Baddeley family and is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

CROSS MONARO STREET …

CHINESE GARDENS   **23 – 27 MONARO STREET**
                                                        OPPOSITE SWAMP

Did you know that Pambula had a small Chinese population during the 18th and early 19th centuries? Or that they were particularly fond of echidnas?

"…one and six they give you for them, Puddin' Burgess, Jackie Newlyn and I walked that bush, we bagged every bloody poor old echidna up, wouldn't matter if you took them friggin' fifty, they had the money to buy them, they must have loved them. We took them to them live,

they didn't want them any way else bar alive, not damaged or nothing, I don't know how they did them…"

As with many other parts of the Australian colonies, Chinese immigrants began moving through the local district during the goldrush era of the 1850s and '60s, lured from the impoverished areas of southern China by potential capital. Many travelled by steamship to Merimbula and Eden before trekking overland to the Kiandra and Delegate diggings. Others arrived after the gold discovery south of Pambula in 1888. As the mines began to fade, some stayed in the district, taking up occupations such as market gardening.

As well as this area on the eastern side of Monaro Street, they also cropped other spots on the Pambula Flats, behind Baddeley's cottage, on the western side of the Commercial Hotel and near the Yowaka River at Nethercote: "…*they were directly behind the bakehouse, the bank and Dr's, the Drs Wing, all in that area, and then down into that little gully that's behind the Top Pub, they were on both sides of that, there was a bridge across there, and I think there is a big motel on that little corner there now…"*

At the gardens in Monaro Street "…*There was a little timber house in the middle, iron roof and little palings like weatherboards with bits of render in them, a respectable little joint right in the middle of their garden, then they had a few other little sheds, I suppose tool sheds that they'd put their carts and things in…they were growing carrots, parsnips, potatoes and rock melons and things like that…"*

Among those who worked market gardening around the Pambula district were Willy, Wey Lee, Ah Kee, Ah Tin Gut, Charley Ah Lum, Ching Pong (or Grandfather), Jimmy Ah Kin, Joe Ah Yup and Lamie (also recorded as Lammy and Lammie). Like most other parts of the Colony, there were no females amongst their number, many of the men having left wives and children behind in China.

They were a familiar sight locally during the late 1800s and early 1900s selling their fruit and vegetables from house to house using small hand carts: "…*they had an ordinary little cart, just like an overgrown barrow you'd put a bit of wood in, with shafts, they never had a bloody horse, they had a bloody strap harness type thing and one bloke would pull that around town on his own, they'd have a little chock, they drop this bit of wood to hold the shaft up and they'd go to a house and then the woman or whoever would come out and get their few spuds or carrots or parsnips or whatever… at show time, this old Lambie would take his cart of veggies and watermelons and things like that and he'd sell them at the Pambula Show…"*

Some of local market gardeners also used wooden neck yokes to carry their produce around town, and one of those used at Pambula has recently been gifted to the Merimbula Old School Museum.

Although cultural differences were predictable, the Chinese residents were, for the most part, valued members of the community. Joe Ah Yup arrived in Pambula during the 1890s and became a popular resident, the regard the townsfolk had for him evident after he made plans to return to China in 1927: *After 30 years a citizen of Pambula, Joe Ah Yup leaves for China*

on Saturday. During his residence here, he has proved himself to be most law abiding, honest and straightforward. His purse was always open to every charitable and sports object and he never had to be asked for his annual subscription to the hospital. Joe will be greatly missed by the children when he fails to do his rounds on Saturday afternoons with his fruit baskets. A collection was initiated prior to his departure, when he was presented with a set of pipes by the townspeople as a small token of esteem and appreciation of his past citizenship.

Except for those originating from Great Britain, the Chinese are Australia's oldest continuous migrant group.

To your south you can see the Colonial Motor Inn. This site was occupied in the 1860s by the Swan Inn, followed by a number of stores, then from 1891 until 1916 the Club Hotel operated from here. After the building was sold in 1918, the material was recycled in other structures at South Pambula, Lochiel, and Cathcart.

HEAD NORTH BACK UP MONARO STREET TO…

OLD SCHOOLMASTER'S RESIDENCE   **19 MONARO STREET**
For many years, the local teacher and his family had to rent accommodation from the limited supply available, so it might have been expected that provision of a house specifically for their use would have been welcomed. Not quite.

Built in 1877, the sturdy stone teacher's residence quickly became a cause for complaint by the various occupants. Mr. Apsey, who arrived in 1879, was so unimpressed that he applied for a transfer from Pambula on a number of occasions, noting that *"I have been and still am compelled to allow my six children (four boys and two girls) to sleep in one bedroom; and the room intended for a front sitting room is converted into a kitchen and store-room where washing the children, cooking meals and eating them, with everything in the way of something else, creates a state of things somewhat funny but at the same time indescribably irritating, unpleasant and unwholesome."*

In 1886, Assistant District Inspector H. Skillman wrote that *"…the roof of both the school building and the teacher's residence… leak in consequence of the loosened state of the shingles…"* while in 1890, it was noted that *"The residence is old and in poor condition. It requires renovation throughout. Southern wall appears to have subsided. A large crack is visible. The palisading in front of residence needs repainting…"*

Teacher William J. Healey applied for a weatherboard dining room addition in 1890, commenting that *"What is really a kitchen is used for dining purposes and with the exception of the parlour, is the only room which has a chimney."* At that point, it still consisted of its original three rooms – parlour and bedrooms, with a detached kitchen room and pantry at the rear. No doubt Healey was relieved when David Crawley added a dining room that year. Further additions and repairs were undertaken in 1899, when it is believed that the stone extension, noticeable on the right-hand side of the building, was added.

Like so much of the original township, Pambula's first school building was on the river flats. It included two rooms for teacher accommodation, but periodic flooding sometimes forced

evacuation. Although it was clear that the facility needed to be relocated, classes nonetheless alternated between a room in Baddeley's tannery and the old building until a new school (which is the next stop on your tour) was completed in 1872.

The 1873 National Schools report highlighted the absence of teacher accommodation at Pambula, and in 1874 the local board focused on raising the necessary funds. Limited space on the school site saw the adjoining block was purchased in 1875. Then, after Honorary Secretary of the local School Board Charles Henry Baddeley reported to the Department that residents could not afford to finance the construction, the Department decided that the project would proceed. Mr. Baddeley drew up plans for the building, and stonemason Jacob Bernasconi and carpenter Joseph Hills completed the project early in 1877.

After the school relocated to its current site, the department eventually constructed accommodation there and this building was sold. It remains a private residence today and is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

CONTINUE NORTH TO…

FORMER PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING   **CNR MONARO AND TOALLO STREETS**

Religious division was common in colonial Australia, an import from Britain where sectarianism had been rife since the 16th century. And, not surprisingly, the public school system in rural NSW reflected this often-bitter discord between the Anglican and Catholic faiths.

This divide was apparent in Pambula when Public School teacher and wife of the Merimbula Police Constable Mary Nevin became a target. She was accused of careless work and of using the school as a nursery, but it is more likely that her Catholic faith was at the root of the criticism – this despite the fact that of the 32 students on the roll, 22 were Roman Catholic. When the local board informed Mrs. Nevin that teaching was an unsuitable position for a policeman's wife, she was forced to resign. Although the Chief of Police overruled the protest and she resumed her job, attendances continued to fall, some parents preferring to send their children to Mr. Wilson's private school, despite it reportedly being in a barely tolerable state. The situation did not improve until Mrs. Nevin's transfer at the beginning of 1873.

Pambula National School originally opened in a newly repaired hut provided by James Walker on the property now known as Oaklands. The seventh established in the Colony of NSW, James Grealy was appointed temporary teacher, the Board of National Education supplying books and promising support. Residents claimed a two-and-a-half-acre site in the original township on the flat and a brick and shingle school opened in November 1849. The first permanent teacher, Henry Fowler, arrived before the end of the year. He had previously taught at Kempsey, the colony's first National School, thus being one of NSW's first public school teachers.

Although residents were happy to contribute more than half the cost of building the school, Pambula was by and large a poor community so most parents were irregular with school fees and as the teacher relied, in part, on these for his wage, he would have felt this keenly.

Located on the river flats, flooding plagued the original township and forced the school's closure on many occasions. In May 1851 water rose 16 inches (40 cm) over the building floor, while further damage was done during the 1860s. In response, this half-acre block on the corner of Monaro and Toallo Streets was secured in 1867 for a new school, but because residents weren't in a position to contribute towards the cost, construction was delayed. Classes alternated between the original school on the flat and a room in Baddeley's tannery, and a bell was sent on an Illawarra Steam Navigation Company ship to call the children from the scattered district together for classes each morning.

When flooding in 1870 finally rendered the original school unsafe the need for a new facility was clear. The contract for the two-roomed rubble sandstone building was let to Messrs. Booth and Nowles, and completion was reported in July 1872.

Unfortunately, authorities failed to take population growth into account when planning the new facility and although extensions, improvements and modifications were undertaken in 1884, around 1886 and the late 1890s, it could not keep up with demand. In 1897, additional seating had to be borrowed from the School of Arts and in November that year, the local *Pambula Voice* roared that *"It seems monstrous to assert that the present school building is adequate for all requirements. We have previously pointed out that it was built to accommodate 70 scholars; and the teachers are hampered in their work by the partition that divides the school. There are over 100 children on the roll, and sometimes a hundred scholars in attendance, while several of the children over five years have been refused admission owing to want of room..."* The following year the *Voice* complained that *"The school building itself is in a very dilapidated condition and last week one of the walls cracked, making it necessary to move the pupils to another room."*

The new century dawned with an ongoing argument about the need for a new school. In 1902, the *Voice* noted that *"The unsuitability of the accommodation…has been keenly felt for some time. The school building is divided into two compartments, the head teacher (Mr. Ashworth) having charge of the senior scholars and the assistant (Miss Huggart) looking after the juniors. The larger room has the smaller number of scholars, while the junior room is uncomfortably crammed with pupils. The partition separating the two apartments should be removed, or an additional teacher appointed."* In 1903, the *Voice* commented that *""It is of no use patching up and adding to the present piebald structure..."* and in 1905 that *"It must be apparent to everyone that the barn-like building is unsuitable for the purposes for which it is used…"*

Finally, by 1906, Pambula learnt that they would get their new school to accommodate 250 pupils. Land about 400 metres north at the top of Monaro Street was reserved, and Mr. O. Lassen's tender was accepted for the new weatherboard school building which was completed in July 1907. Robert Ashworth, who had arrived with his family in 1895, was the last head teacher at the second school and the first at the third when classes finally relocated in November 1907.

Then, in 1912, Lodge Baddeley, the local chapter of the Masonic Lodge, bought the 1872 school building and converted it into their temple, holding meetings in the building from

1913. Lodge Baddeley had been consecrated at Pambula in 1892, meeting for the first 21 years in the Pambula School of Arts. After purchasing the old school, local masons carried out improvements that included a new lodge room, dedicated in 1957, and a new South wing constructed in 1978/79.

The building is included on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

TURN RIGHT IN TOALLO STREET

COMMERCIAL HOTEL (TOP PUB)   **18 QUONDOLA STREET**
Dubbed the Top Pub (can you guess why?), Pambula's Commercial Hotel is the epitome of Pambula's waste not, want not ethos. When John Behl (again!) was planning his new business, the abandoned 1849-built Pambula National School on the river flats came up for sale, so he purchased it, recycling usable material, including the bricks, in the construction of the Commercial. Still serving the community after almost a century and a half, it remains an outstanding illustration the town's tradition of reusing and recycling the past for the future.

John Behl had operated the Forest Oak Inn (further down Quondola Street) until 1874, then licensed the new Commercial Hotel the following year. He and his wife Christina continued to run the business for a decade until William Johnson took over in 1884 and after undertaking extensions in 1887, he advertised *"To tourists unusual advantage will be offered. Boats, fishing tackle, guns, rifles provided, and buggy and horses to drive them to any of the beautiful spots in the neighbourhood. Baths, salt, fresh, hot or cold, plunge and shower at the hotel – for whom the cost of residence will be fixed on very low terms."* A new blacksmith's shop also opened on the adjoining block the same year.

Alexander and Caroline Robertson purchased the freehold and took over the license in 1889, while Johnson joined the rush to the nearby Pambula goldfields. Twelve months later, he was killed in an explosion on his mining lease. Soon after taking over, Alexander and Caroline *"...introduced a novelty to Pambula..."* in the form of the town's first billiard table and two years later thoroughly renovated the premises. Dick Hunter from Cobargo was licensee in 1892 but Alexander was back in the role the following year. Then, when Alexander passed away in 1895, Caroline took the reins and had additional rooms added in 1906. Further renovations were undertaken in 1915 and 1916.

The Robertson's connection with the Commercial continued into the 1920s and spanned two generations. In 1916 James Robertson became the Commercial's licensee after his mother Caroline retired. In the 1920s, he and his brother Thomas became part owners as well as partners in the business, continuing until 1925 when this was dissolved, James carrying on until 1926 when Mr. E. J. Welsh purchased both the freehold and the leasehold. The *Pambula Voice* reported that he had *"...just installed a beer pump by which the beer is aerated and passed through an ice chamber."* Extensive alterations were also undertaken, including a new bar of concrete and fibrolite.

Next came C. A. Stewart, then G. F. Tisdale who was publican in 1937 when the local Licensing Inspector applied for an order of demolition of the existing building and

replacement with another. Fortunately though, Tisdale's opposition saw the application withdrawn, although he had to agree to undertake *"…certain desired improvements…"*

S. C. Turnbull took over in 1938, possibly followed by Mr. Beale in 1939 then George McIver in 1940. Jack Walker purchased the freehold in 1945, and by 1949, James Minehan was publican, followed by Bert Ruttley and then Cecil Epplestun. In 1957 Harry Franks purchased the freehold and leasehold and two years later installed Stan Vincent, his stepson, as licensee. After Harry's death in 1963, his wife Florence became owner, with Stan continuing as licensee until his death in 1975. Stan's wife Mary Ellen Vincent (later Whatman) carried on. Extensions and remodelling were undertaken during the 1960s by familiar local names including Ron Haigh and Robinson, McDonald, and Ward

Although the Commercial is now Pambula's only hotel, it was certainly not the first – that honour belonged to the Governor Fitzroy. Constructed by Charles Robertson - father of the Commercial's Alexander - and subsequently licensed to him in 1847, it stood on the Walker estate (now known as Oaklands) close to the original township. Pambula boasted many others over the years, the number exploding during the 1860s Kiandra gold rush, when no less than seven were in operation.

The Commercial is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

TURN RIGHT DOWN QUONDOLA STREET

Heading down Quondola Street, you will pass Prumm's Family Chemist. This site was previously occupied by the *Pambula Voice* office. Established in 1892 and continuing until the early 1940s, it was the only Pambula newspaper to have lasted for any length of time.

PAMBULA WAR MEMORIAL   22 QUONDOLA STREET
AND BANKSIA RESTAURANT
The Pambula War Memorial is linked to many important and often heart-breaking stories. Just one amongst them is that of Edgar Bootes Johnson, again featured in Pat Raymond's publication *Remembering Bega Valley Servicemen of World War I.* Hailing from Blayney, he was just 18 years of age when he arrived in Pambula in November 1914 to take up a position with the local CBC branch (which operated from the building behind the memorial). Fifteen months later, he enlisted in the AIF and after a farewell function at the Commercial Hotel, embarked for Europe in June 1916. Taken on strength by the 55th Battalion in November that year, he wrote to Mrs. Weekes of Gundagai at the beginning of 1917 expressing appreciation for the Red Cross: *"We gave three cheers for the Red Cross ladies of Australia when we opened up the Christmas supplies you sent us. We got them all and if you know how we appreciated them you would have no doubt about sending us stuff."*

Tragically, Edgar was killed in action in September 1917 during the bloody Battle of Polygon Wood. His remains were never found, and his name is one of the thousands commemorated on the Menin Gate memorial to the missing in Belgium. He is also recorded on the Pambula War Memorial, although his surname has been misspelt *(Johnston)* and there is no asterisk denoting that he had made the supreme sacrifice.

Honour rolls were often the first memorials produced to commemorate those who served during WWI. Messrs. Wunderlich Ltd produced the Red Cross Pambula Branch Roll of Honor in 1918. Erected on the porch of the town's Post Office in 1918, it became a focus for community services remembering those who served and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. When the post office was destroyed in 1936, the roll was one of the few things saved. It is now housed in the Pambula Town Hall.

In 1928, the community moved towards construction of a more substantial memorial, but the onset of the Great Depression meant a long, drawn-out process. The district persevered however, and in February 1936, the Pambula District Soldiers Memorial was unveiled. Produced by Zeigler and Son of Bega granite, the *Pambula Voice* reported that *"In the presence of a large concourse of residents of Pambula and surrounding districts, the Soldiers' Memorial erected in Quondola Street was unveiled last Saturday. The memorial bears over 80 names of men who enlisted for active service in the Great War, a large number of whom paid the supreme sacrifice. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Col. T. E. W. Irwin…"* Former Pambula medicos Drs Lindon and Naomi Wing also donated a chain fence and flagstaff for the monument.

April 1936 saw the memorial's first Anzac Day ceremony and it has remained a focus for the remembrance of war time and peace keeping service and sacrifice ever since, with the march down Quondola Street to the monument always well attended by both servicepeople and the broader community. The memorial now records the names of 170 locals who served in conflicts including WWI, WWII, Korea, Malaya, and Vietnam. At least twenty-six died in service of their country.

Behind the memorial stands Banksia Restaurant, formerly home to the local branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (CBC).

This and the adjoining block, Lots 8 and 9 of Section 11, were originally purchased by Prince Champion in the 1850s, he and his wife Anne and their children living in a cottage there until his death in 1858. Anne then moved to Sydney with their children but retained ownership of these and Prince's other Pambula landholdings. Following her death in 1874, their daughter Jane inherited these two blocks.

In 1880, she sold them to Pambula storekeeper Patrick Doherty who, in 1883, had a new weatherboard building *"…sufficiently large to provide for the requirements of his store business…"* constructed. Including a residence, it was reportedly the largest structure in the township at the time. Patrick opened his Commercial Stores there, running it until his son James took over in 1888, followed by the partnership of Fraser and Napthali and then Daniel Fraser.

Fraser had high hopes of being successful, it being the height of the Pambula gold rush, but the field wasn't as productive as hoped and in June 1894 he advertised a clearance sale as he was *"…leaving the district at no distant date."* Then, in October, he announced *"…the whole of his store goods at real bargain prices for three weeks only…"* However, in the early hours of the morning of 20 November that year, a fire broke out in the building, and within half an

hour, *"...the whole place was a mass of flames."* Within two hours, *"...not a thing left standing save two brick chimneys…"*

Fraser and his family were away at the time, but assistant William Woods, who was staying on the premises, *"...had a narrow escape…",* getting out of the building *"...in a semiconscious state, having been overcome by the smoke…"* Part of an adjoining blacksmith's shop was also burnt, while several other neighbouring businesses narrowly escaped destruction.

With Fraser already planning to leave the area, Patrick Doherty decided not to rebuild immediately, and the block remained vacant for some time. Then, in 1902 local businesspeople lobbied the CBC (now National Australia Bank) to open a branch in the town, Bega's manager Mr. E. Bingemann setting it up in temporary premises in November. Acting Manager Herbert Walter Hogg arrived in December and wrote to the general manager that Patrick had offered to erect a new, purpose-built bank and manager's residence in Quondola Street. This was the block previously occupied by his general store.

Local builder Job Koerber's tender was accepted in March 1903, and work had commenced by the end of May, the *Pambula Voice* reporting that *"The first block was put in on Tuesday, when a fair number assembled to witness the ceremony of breaking a bottle of "fizz" on the event."*

The premises were completed by September 1903 and Chief Inspector Mr. J. B. Gaden advised that Bega branch accountant, Alfred Arguimbau had been promoted as Pambula's first permanent manager. Given an allowance of £30 per annum for servants and £20 for fuel and other necessities, he took over on 16 November, his family arriving three days later to move into the new residence. Finally, on Monday 14 December 1903, the bank commenced business in its new permanent venue.

In November 1904, Mr. Arguimbau reported that the building had cost £650 to construct, but although he noted that it was very comfortable, he highlighted that there was no spare room allowed if the manager should have children, commenting that *"...as the Bank Managers' wives live very secluded lives in these small towns...it is great boon to have a spare room to enable them to be in a position to ask some relative or friend to stay with them at times."*

Following Patrick's death in 1909, his son and daughter-in-law James and Mary Jane Doherty inherited his other property. They offered the bank building to the CBC for £1,000, but as Mr. Arguimbau felt the price was too high, a drawn-out process of negotiations began. Finally, in May 1911, Mr. Arguimbau wrote to say that he had received advice that the May board meeting had approved the purchase of the land and bank building for £825.

Settlement was also lengthy, with the CBC General Manager advising the Pambula branch manager in September 1916 that the transfer was nearing completion. It was finally concluded in October 1917, more than six years after the deposit had been paid. Tenders were called soon after for extensive renovations and alterations, Job Koerber again completing the work.

Following the outbreak of WWI, CBC's Head Office decided to employ females to supplement the growing number of male tellers enlisting. Phyllis Arguimbau, manager Alfred's daughter, became the first female employed at the Pambula branch when she was awarded a clerkship in January 1917.

Further alterations and additions to the building were undertaken in 1921, and it is believed that this was when part of the verandah was enclosed, and a second gable was added on the southern side of the building.

After the Australian Bank of Commerce's local branch closed in 1927, the CBC became Pambula's only bank.

WWII erupted in 1939 and with Japan's entry into the conflict, labour was increasingly stretched. In April 1942, CBC's Head Office announced the closure of Pambula branch, with local customers advised to use the Bega branch almost 40 km distant, despite poor roads and the strict petrol rationing in place. Residents responded by complaining to the local State Member for Parliament, and although the government couldn't compel them to keep branches open, CBC's Head Office agreed that Pambula could operate as an agency service on Saturday mornings. When the branch wasn't re-established after the end of the war, residents again took the issue to the local member, and before the end of 1946, Pambula's CBC Bank reopened.

During the 1970s, male tellers from the bank boarded at the Top Pub (Commercial Hotel), with some of them working a second job doing night shift at the Pambula Post Office's manual telephone exchange. A stretcher was set up for their use, and as it was usually quiet from 9 pm onwards, they got plenty of sleep.

Business began declining at Pambula and in December 1971 it was downgraded to a subbranch of Merimbula. Although the manager, Mr. Lindsay Huxley and his family continued to reside in the Pambula residence, all business appointments took place at Merimbula.

The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited merged with the National Bank of Australasia in 1982, becoming the National Australia Bank and in August 1985 the Pambula Service Centre was upgraded to branch status under the management of Mr. P. H. Davies. Then, in November that year, after more than 80 years, business was relocated further up Quondola Street to the Pambula Village Centre complex, erected in the early 1980s by local Ian Robinson, and now occupied by Prumm's Family Chemist.

It was around this time that the wife of a newly arrived Merimbula branch manager refused to live in the residence at the old Pambula bank, commenting that it was too old and not up to her standard of living. After a time, the NAB sold the building to Howard and Robyne Jones, who then sold it to Willy and Betty Stewart. Often still referred to as the Old Bank, it has been used as a private residence, children's clothing shop, art gallery and coffee shop. In 2018, it was purchased by Renee Loftus and Huw Jones who opened the Banksia Restaurant.

An important tangible reminder of the town's 20th century financial and commercial activities, the old bank building is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

Heading south down Quondola Street, you will pass Wild Rye's Bakery. Although the current building was constructed in 1981, the site has reportedly been occupied by a bakery for a century and a half. In about 1860, Syms Covington apparently sold the block for a bakery so that he could be assured of a good supply of fresh bread for his Forest Oak Inn next door. Then, in 1891, it was reported that Thomas Cornell's new bakery shop on the site was nearly finished.

CONTINUING SOUTH, YOU NEXT COME TO…

COVINGTON'S   **28 QUONDOLA STREET**

What heritage tour, especially in a town as historic as Pambula, would be complete without a ghost story? And what more appropriate spot than one of the town's most significant and arguably interesting places?

A number of former residents are firm in their belief that a ghostly presence watches over this building, most of them of the opinion that it is the original owner, Syms Covington, who died there in 1861. There are stories of lights flickering, guests getting cold shivers and feeling a strange presence when no one else was in the room. Roly Hough, owner during the 1980s, said that he had to change his bedroom several times because he felt like someone was trying to get him out of bed. He also reported sensing a presence late at night while he was redecorating the building.

Peter Bruce, a friend of Roly's, recalled that while upstairs one evening *"I felt a shadow behind me, two or three times it happened. There was somebody behind… I could feel somebody moving."* But when he turned around, he saw nothing. Then there was the door upstairs that had no lock and normally opened freely but on occasion could not be budged, as if someone was holding it closed on the other side. Peter reported that *"The people who have lived here always remember something."*

Anne Hofstede, who took over the restaurant with her husband Wolter in the 1980s, claimed *"Everyone in the area believed in the ghost…And people who work here are convinced that there is often something in the room with them. We have problems with the power, which no one is able to fix, and there are a lot of strange noises."*

Prior to arriving in the Colony, Englishman Syms Covington had been engaged on the HMS *Beagle*'s second voyage between 1831 and 1836. Also on board was naturalist Charles Darwin and although the pair were strangers when the vessel departed Plymouth Sound, by the time the ship docked back in England almost five years later, they were firm friends.

Two years into the voyage, Darwin engaged Syms as his assistant to undertake jobs such as collector, hunter, and taxidermist, as well as writing up much of his employer's research. Darwin noted that Covington had *"…shot and prepared nearly all the specimens I brought home."* As well as his work with Darwin, Syms also kept his own personal journal of the

voyage, recording written and pictorial accounts of the places and people he encountered. It is now held in the Mitchell Library's collection of the State Library of NSW.

After arriving back in England Syms remained in Darwin's employ, helping to sort and label the extensive specimen collection.

The *Beagle* voyage had a significant impact on Darwin's view of natural history. He began developing a revolutionary theory about the origin of living beings, his research ultimately resulting in his ground-breaking 1859 publication *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. Going against the accepted belief in the biblical Book of Genesis, its impact was shocking - but paved the way for tremendous modern advances in biology.

A few months after Darwin's marriage in January 1839, Syms decided to emigrate to Australia. Armed with references and letters of introduction from his employer and friend, he landed in Sydney in 1840, and secured a position with the Australian Agricultural Company. After marrying Eliza Twyford in August 1841, the couple took up residence at Miller's Point, Sydney, where their three eldest children, all sons, were born.

By the time their first daughter, Elizabeth Louisa, was born in February 1848, the family had moved to Pambula and Syms was operating a general store in the town. In 1852 he purchased two allotments of land in Quondola Street and the same year was granted a publican's license for an inn on the site described as a slab cottage containing two rooms, plastered, with a shingle roof…". In 1854, he was appointed the town's second postmaster, receiving £20 a year for his duties.

The stone and brick house still standing on the site was constructed in 1855, becoming Covington's general store, post office and the Forest Oak Inn. The main road once passed between the building and the Anglican Christ Church, which accounts for its siting facing south.

Syms and Eliza had five more children – three sons and two daughters – between 1850 and 1858 and in 1860, he and fellow publican Peter O'Neil were given the honour of laying the foundation stone for the new Pambula Courthouse. For several years, Syms also served on the local school board.

Even after arriving in Australia, Syms remained in close contact with Darwin, sending specimens of local plant and sea life for his former employer's research. In 1849, Darwin wrote *"…I do not know whether you live near the sea, but if so I should be very glad if you would collect me any [barnacles] that adhere (small and large) to the coast rocks or to shells or to corals thrown up by gales…"* Covington and his sons duly visited the seaside, gathering samples and sending them off, and in November 1850, Darwin replied *"…I thank you very sincerely for the great trouble you must have taken in collecting so many specimens. I have received a vast number of collections from different places, but never one so rich from one locality."*

Syms' health deteriorated until in February 1861 he passed away, the *Illawarra*

Mercury announcing *"… the demise of Mr. Syms Covington, Post-master of Pambula, which took place at 3 o'clock on Monday morning last in consequence of the paralytic attack I mentioned a short time since. The deceased was universally respected by all who knew him, for his unobtrusive punctual and honest conduct, accompanied as it was by kindness of manner and willingness to oblige."*

Following Syms' death, his wife Eliza ran the Forest Oak Inn until remarrying in April 1861, just two months after Syms' demise, her new husband Llewelyn Heaven taking over as licensee. Adam Lewis had taken over by 1864, followed by John Behl (there he is again) in 1866, by which time the Forest Oak was the only licensed premises in the main Pambula township. When placed up for auction by the Covington family in 1884, the property was described as an "…eight roomed substantial house, stabling, outbuildings, on one and a half acres with 132-foot frontage to Quondola Street." It was purchased by John Behl who had been living there with his family since the 1860s and, by that time, had established the Commercial Hotel on the corner of Quondola and Toallo Streets.

The property was known as "The Retreat" by 1895, a name that remained for more than a century until the more recent adoption of Covington's, although it was also referred to as *Rostherne* for a period.

As a number of Pambula's doctors lived in and ran their practices from the premises, it was also referred to as the Dr's residence. Among these medicos were Howle from 1908; MacArthur between 1919 and 1921; Lindon and Naomi Wing from 1932; Keith Jones from 1936; Russell from 1945; Ted Blomfield from 1947; and Thompson from about 1949. One resident recalled Dr. Thompson treating his dog's broken leg and setting it in plaster. Paul Peirce in the 1970s is believed to have been the last of the doctors associated with the property.

As well as a general store, post office, hotel, Dr's surgery and residence, the building has also been used at times as a court room, police barracks, and, in more recent years, a restaurant. Recognised for its outstanding heritage significance, it is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH   32 QUONDOLA STREET
In many European settlements across Australia, churches and pubs were amongst the first facilities established, and Pambula was no different.

As one of the oldest Anglican Church centres in the Goulburn diocese, ministrations at Pambula date from about 1842 when Reverend W. J. Nott, an S. P. G. missionary, delivered an itinerant ministry in the Maneroo district. The settlement may have even been visited prior to this by the Reverend E. Smith of Queanbeyan. Regular services of a sort began in 1843 when Reverend Edward Gifford Pryce was appointed to the Parish of Maneroo, travelling through his rough and mountainous district on horseback attending to the widespread population's spiritual needs.

Services were initially held in private homes and commercial venues until, in 1856, John

Lloyd of the Grange provided land and the town's first Church of England, a slab building, whitewashed inside, was erected near the original settlement on the flat. The same year, Bishop Barker celebrated the first Holy Communion in the building, Reverend E. Forde was registered to perform marriages at Panbula, and Reverend William Allworth was appointed to a district known as the Bega – Pambula – Eden charge. As with most of the original township, however, the building was lost to flood waters.

Reverend E. H. A. Gwynne arrived in 1861, followed by Reverend J. L. Knight in 1864. It was under Reverend Knight's charge that the town's second Anglican Church, and the first on the current site was commenced. Designed by Lieutenant Woore of Goulburn, Mrs. James Manning laid the foundation stone in 1864. Constructed of local sandstone as well as Pyrmont sandstone recovered from Ballast Point in the Pambula River, it was completed in 1866 and served the community for almost a century.

Pambula was conducted from Bega from 1866, then Kameruka from 1877, before the separate Parish of Pambula was established in 1880. The first rector was Reverend (afterwards Canon) Richard Leigh, followed by Reverend James Clarke and then Reverend R. T. Earl (sometimes spelt "Earle") until 1891. Considerable parochial expansion took place under Reverend Earl, including construction of churches at Eden, Towamba, and Wyndham. It was also during his time that the weatherboard house on the block to the west alongside Christ Church was constructed in 1887 as the Anglican rectory. It remained in use by church ministers until 1968 when a new parsonage was constructed at Eden.

Many tangible reminders of local families remain in the church today, including the lectern given by the Bennett family; the Altar Cross from Reverend (later Canon) Gordon Hirst; the Altar book rest in memory of James and Eliza Furner; and the candlesticks presented by Rachel Nicholson and Adelaide Wood. Mural tablets also stand in memory to other citizens, including Stephen Woods, Thomas Henderson and Florence A. Walker, Church organist from 1925 to 1934. The Baddeley family were strong supporters of Christ Church, their involvement stretching back virtually to their arrival in the town in the mid-1860s. In 1917, Mr. C. A. Baddeley purchased a block of land adjoining the rectory and donated it to the Church of England body.

Age gradually took its toll on the old church and one morning the east wall of the sanctuary crumbled and collapsed, leaving the roof suspended over the ruins. After being condemned by the Church wardens as being unsafe, stonemason David Larcombe of Goulburn declared in 1952 that it would have to be demolished. In September that year, parishioners decided to accept his offer to build a new church, and a finance committee was elected to raise the £2,000 necessary to start the project. As well as undertaking the construction, Mr. Larcombe also designed the new building.

On 27 November 1953, the foundation stone for Pambula's third Anglican Church was laid by His Excellency Sir John Northcote, and it was dedicated in October 1956. The original foundation stone from the 1864 structure was incorporated into the structure, providing a tangible link with the long connection with the site. It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

In 2008 the former weatherboard Oddfellows Hall / Uniting Church building was relocated from its original site in Quondola Street to stand alongside Christ Church, where it is used as a hall for functions, meetings, and other events.

For service times see https://www.sapphirecoastanglicanparish.org.au/churches/christchurch-pambula/

CROSS QUONDOLA STREET AT TRAFFIC ISLAND
Directly opposite Covington's, the Royal Hotel was constructed during the 1880s, operating until the mid-2010s. Its free-standing billiard room on the southern side was built in the 1890s and was later used as a general store.

CONTINUE HEADING NORTH UP QUONDOLA STREET TO…

**MCPHERSON'S DRAPERY   33 QUONDOLA STREET
AND HABERDASHERY**
As the plaque on the side of the building tells, this was once the business premises of Australia's oldest tax payer.

Bridget McPherson moved her frock and haberdashery shop from the site now occupied by the Pambula milk bar into these premises around the mid-1960s. Better known locally as "Mrs. Mac", she kept a staggering array of stock on hand, including clothing and accessories, workwear, school uniforms, fabrics, haberdashery, mercery, and napery. She had everything and knew where everything was - and was renowned for never changing the price on anything once it was marked. A determined search through the stacks could turn up items marked in pounds, shillings, and pence right up until her last day in the shop.

In the five decades that she owned the business, she rarely missed a day of work – even turning up on her 100th birthday in September 1988. Reputedly Australia's oldest taxpayer, she was featured by the media working in her store and answering questions from metropolitan media in her usual pointed manner. Mrs. Mac continued working until she was 102, saying it was people that kept her going – *"I like people. I like serving them."* She passed away in Pambula District Hospital at 103 years of age.

The complex was constructed for local businessman W. J. Tweedie in 1891. During its lifetime it has been occupied by a number of different enterprises, but from the mid-1890s until Mrs. Mac moved in, it was home to the Federal Stores. During the Great Depression it was through Walker's Federal Stores that unemployment relief was provided. Renovations were undertaken on a number of occasions, but following the disastrous 1936 street fire, it was the focus of an extensive make over, including a *"…modern brick, tile and plate glass front…"*, the contract being carried out by renowned Bega building and construction firm of Thatcher and Co.

In more recent years, the premises has housed various businesses, including clothing stores, an art gallery, lolly shop and tea rooms, but apart from reconstruction of the veranda after a 1983 car accident, the building appears to have altered little since the 1938 work. It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

PAMBULA MILK BAR   **31 QUONDOLA STREET**

In June 1936, a disastrous fire broke out here that wiped out not only the building that previously stood on the site but two neighbouring ones as well.

According to reports, it *"...started soon after 7 p.m. in the service station, and before the Godfrey family at the rear of the building were aware of it, the whole of the front of the building was ablaze and they had to make their escape with what they stood up in. Explosions of petrol in the tanks in three cars and in the kerbside bowers followed, and dense volumes of black smoke from a large stock of tyres hung over the scene and added to the difficulties of the fire fighters. A big crowd quickly gathered, but by this time the front of the building had collapsed. Despite the risk of the petrol tanks beneath the footpath exploding, the crowd worked gamely in a narrow lane with buckets, wetting the walls of Fraser's Store and preventing the burning walls of the service station falling outwards."*

As well as Godfrey's Motors, McGoldrick's Café next door and the Pambula Post Office on the northern side of that were both also burnt to the ground. And it was only the concerted efforts of bands of local residents that saved the complex now occupied by Goldfinch, the Candy Shop and Stella and Mirriam's Vintage Tearooms on the southern side, as well as the buildings to the north.

From around the 1890s, a weatherboard triple gable building with a verandah had graced this site. Similar in style to the McPherson's complex to the south, it was occupied by the Hampden House general store, operated by Goldberg Brothers' and then V. Herman and Co.

By the mid-1920s, Godfrey brothers had moved their motor garage business into the building, and from 1927, ran Pambula's first electricity plant here. Apparently one of the first on the far south coast, in September that year in was noted that they were *"...making good headway with installation of the electric lighting plant. All poles and wiring in Main Street are practically completed, while the engine has been set into its concrete bed and electric light points connected in a number of buildings."*

Following the blaze, Godfrey's operated from a temporary service station at the rear of the site, approximately where the Baddeley Carpark is now located. Construction of the present building commenced around late 1936, and in February the following year it was reported that *"Godfrey's Motor's Ltd's new premises are close to completion and should be ready for occupation in a few days."* This work was undertaken by Bega contractor Mr. Thatcher.

Godfrey's Garage, with its mechanics department, electrical repairs, and wireless installation, occupied the new building for several years. Petrol bowsers stood on the kerbside, and evidence of these can still be seen today.

Sometime later, the premises was split into several shops with the area on the southern side for many years housing a butchery operated by names such as Harry and Norm Ballantyne and Barry ("Foozle") Godfrey. Another similar sized area on the northern side was a chemist,

then a barber's shop run by Charlie Graham and later Joe Veigal, who reportedly hung a cow bell on the door for prospective customers to ring if he was enjoying a cool ale at the Royal Willows. Every now and then, he would poke his head out of the pub door and look up the street just to make sure no one was waiting for a haircut.

Before Bridget McPherson moved into the building on the southern side, she occupied the centre portion of this building. After she moved out it became a milk bar, remaining so ever since. It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire's Local Environment Plan.

CONTINUE NORTH TO…

FORMER WHITBY'S GARAGE   29 QUONDOLA STREET
Formerly housing Bennett's Garage, the business and its iconic kerbside petrol bowsers played a starring role in the Australian movie *High Tide.* Directed by Gillian Armstrong and featuring a cast of Australian screen stars including Judy Davis, Claudia Karvan, Colin Friels and Frankie J. Holden, it was filmed throughout the local area in 1987.

One of the sites impacted by the 1936 street fire, the circa 1890s weatherboard building was burnt to the ground, a report of the incident noting that *"…practically nothing was saved from McGoldrick's, adjoining Godfrey's. Both buildings were pine-lined and burnt like paper."*

Four months later W. T. ("Bill") Whitby purchased the block and in April 1937 called for tenders to erect a brick front garage and two shops. He accepted that of well-known Bega firm Thatcher and Co. After completion, Mrs. Gordon took one section for her frock shop, while the other was occupied by Mrs. Dyall's newsagents. Bill Whitby himself moved into *"…his new and convenient premises in which he has installed a diesel-engined lighting and battery charging plant…",* operating Whitby's Service Station from the spot for many years.

In January 1938, it was reported that *"The latest thing in petrol bowsers – electrically operated and to be used for the new A.M.P. product – is on the floor at Whitby's garage and will be installed in a few days. On this pump, which is very neat in design and gay in colour, pumping is automatic and a bell rings for each gallon pumped."* Installed on the foot path adjacent to the kerb, the bowsers remained in use until at least the 1980s. Bill also operated the town electricity supply from the site for a number of years

Jack Bennett purchased the property in 1975 and continued the garage and service station business for around two decades. Many locals still remember he and Joe Sharpe pumping petrol for customers in the days when service stations really did provide customer service. Goddard's Motors took over in 1990.

In more recent times, the complex has housed a florist (coincidently established by Bill Whitby's nephew Des), clothing, homewares, and gift stores. It is now occupied by Bianchini Gelati, The Trove antiques and collectables, Mechanic's Botanics florist and Aloha Eve women's clothing boutique.

Listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan, it is a relatively intact example of local interwar architecture. Along with the Milk Bar to the south, it illustrates important design features characteristic of the late 1930s, providing an interesting comparison with the older Victorian structures that still stand around the town. Yet its decorative parapet, tiled façade and suspended awning still reinforce the rural, village streetscape so important to the town's overall appeal.

PAMBULA POST OFFICE   **27 QUONDOLA STREET**

The third of the buildings destroyed during the 1936 Quondola Street blaze, the current Pambula Post Office was erected in 1937. Unusually stark and devoid of ornamentation in comparison to surrounding structures, it was, and to some degree still is, a notable element illustrating the impact disasters such as fires can have on townscape and streetscape features.

Given the isolation of the region during the early years of European settlement, postal facilities were of considerable interest to residents. The district's first post office was established at Boyd Town in 1844 with Eden following three years later. Pambula's opened in September 1853 in response to a letter from Mr. J. J. Grealy (the same Mr Grealy who was Pambula National School's first temporary teacher). Thomas Clayton was appointed first postmaster, occupying the position until November 1854 when Syms Covington took over. After his death in 1861, his son Syms Jnr took over for a brief period, before general storekeeper Robert Beck was appointed in August 1861. After Beck resigned, J. H. Bennett followed, operating from his general store at Yowaka (now South Pambula), but after his unpopular proposal to relocate the office to John Lloyd's Grange premises, he was replaced by Mr. C. H. Baddeley in December 1871.

Money order facilities commenced at Pambula in 1876 and a telegraph station opened in 1880. The town's post and telegraph facilities continued to operate separately until 1 January 1882 when postal operations were relocated to the telegraph office under telegraph master Mr. E. J. Cornell.

From the time it was first established in the town, the post office occupied premises provided by the postmaster of the time. By 1900, however, residents were lobbying for a permanent government owned building, the Post and Telegraph Department finally purchasing the current site from George Carl Behl – John's younger brother – in 1903. Construction of Pambula's first purpose-built post office - an attractive brick building with an arched porch and attached residence - was completed in 1905.

Following the disastrous 1936 blaze, there was a delay in rebuilding the post office, staff operating from temporary facilities in the Pambula Co-operative Creamery and Dairy Company's headquarters on the corner of Quondola and Toallo Streets in the intervening months. However, as that premises was also occupied by the local branch of the Primary Producers Union as well as the co-op, the post office's ongoing presence eventually drew complaints from the secretaries of both other organisations.

Finally, the postal department approved construction of a two-storey brick building, awarding the contract to Gaskin Brothers of Waverly (Sydney) for £2700. Work commenced in April 1937, with the new office and residence occupied in August. The local Progress Association

marked the occasion with an official opening by the Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. J. S. Duncan, followed by a banquet.

The high, narrow building with its austere simplicity, business-like character and almost complete lack of ornamentation was typical of interwar architecture, reportedly *"...the same as that now being followed in new suburban Post Offices..."* It was, however, unique in style and character for Pambula.

Extensive renovations and alterations were undertaken in 1990 in an attempt to soften the façade of the structure and help it blend into the streetscape, but the new elements were completely at odds with both the original style of the building and with common "Pambula style" architectural elements, resulting in a somewhat incongruous mishmash that reflects neither.

CONTINUE SOUTH UP QUONDOLA STREET…

During about the 1930s and '40s, the Pambula Powerhouse occupied the site where the Pambula Newsagency now stands. All of the town's electricity supply was generated from here during that period.

TURN RIGHT INTO TOALLO STREET

You are now standing on the corner of "…all that flourishing new settlement. Known as 'Little Bavaria', situated in Toallo Street…" This comment from the 1880s referred to the building and development works undertaken in the Toallo Street precinct by members of the Behl family. Immigrants from Rottbach, Bavaria, Germany, who arrived in the district between 1857 and 1883, members both as individuals and as a unit were involved in various local industries, businesses, and community organisations, contributing much to the economic, public, and social advancement of the township, as you have seen and will continue to see, on this walk.

CONTINUE EAST DOWN TOALLO STREET TO…

WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE   30 TOALLO STREET
Known as Rose Cottage, this simple weatherboard cottage was probably so named because of its connection with Michael and Rosina Behl. After marrying in 1886, Michael ran a store and boarding house on the Pambula goldfields, selling out in November 1890. Between 1894 and 1895, he operated the Pambula Butchery for his brother Frank; and in 1903, he had reportedly sold his Nethercote farm. The following year, he was appointed herdsman of the Pambula Temporary Common. "Micky" as he was known was remembered driving around in his sulky pulled by an old grey horse.

Originally purchased by William Pheeney in 1855, the block passed to Frederick Plowright in 1873, George True in February 1890 and then George Carl Behl in December the same year. George later subdivided the block into three smaller portions of about 19 ½ perches each, apparently leaving them to his three surviving sons upon his death in 1910. As well as various members of the Behl family buying, selling, and inheriting assorted allotments of land in the

town, Christian names were repeated across the generations, as was the norm at the time, so it can make tracing the story of the individual allotments challenging.

Although sometimes claimed to date from the 1860s, the style of the cottage is considerably more in keeping with the late Victorian period. It may be the third building referred to in an 1891 article which noted that *"The Messrs Behl are putting the finishing touches on two dwellings in Toallo Street and have the foundation in for a third house…"* Similar cottages, no longer standing, were built by members of the same family further down Toallo Street and also in Merimbola Street.

Following Michael's death in 1936, ownership of the block passed to Rosina, and, as the couple had no children, she left her estate to some of her brother Frank's children.

The cottage was reportedly later occupied by local hairdresser Charlie Graham, after which Jim Brown and his wife Stella purchased the property. It is still a family home today and is not open to the public, so please respect the privacy of the residents.

An excellent example of an intact Pambula-style weatherboard cottage, it is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

CROSS TOALLO STREET

The area behind Pambula Tile and Slate was once occupied by another building used as the Pambula post and telegraph office – and built for John Behl! Erected by February 1886, he offered to rent it to the Post and Telegraph Department, noting in a letter to local Postmaster Cornell that the building owned by him and then occupied for those purposes was for sale. In March 1886, Cornell was informed that the Postmaster General had accepted Behl's new building and by February the next year, the office relocation had been completed.

CONTINUE EAST DOWN TOALLO STREET…

WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE   49 TOALLO STREET
Constructed around 1891, this is yet another typically "Pambula" weatherboard cottage erected by members of the Behl family. It and the neighbouring building at 47 Toallo Street were originally almost the same in design and layout. It is believed that Scott Brothers occupied it during the 1890s, followed by watchmaker and jeweller Mr. A. W. Hardaker.

The property remained in the Behl family for many years, with various members sharing interests in it until local general storekeeper Charlie Walker purchased it in the 1930s. It then remained a private residence until, around the late 1980s / early 1990s, it was once again used for commercial purposes. It is listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.

ARTESSENCE GALLERY   47 TOALLO STREET
The birthplace of one of Pambula's most famous sons, Sir William McKell was born in the cottage at the rear of this property in 1891 to Robert and Martha.

Like many others at the time, Robert had come to Pambula in 1889 after the discovery of gold on Mount Gahan. He married Martha Shepherd in 1890 and when his prospecting activities proved unsuccessful, he returned to his butchering trade. Around the same time, in partnership with his brother-in-law John Andrews Donnelly, he reportedly took over Behl's butchery, which apparently operated from this site.

In 1892, the McKell family moved to Candelo then Sydney in 1899 before Robert deserted his wife and children in 1901. William and his three siblings were raised by their mother in the slum suburb of Surry Hills. Leaving school at 13, he qualified as a boilermaker, was involved in trade unionism and politics, and became a barrister in 1925. He served as NSW state Labor member for Redfern for 29 years and NSW Premier between 1941 and 1947, before being appointed the 12th Governor General of Australia between 1947 until 1953, only the second Australian-born to hold the position. He was subsequently invested with the GCMG and became Sir William McKell.

The original half-acre block, as well as a number of other lots, was purchased in 1856 by Samuel Kerry. His son Charles became a renowned colonial photographer and close friend of Sir Frank Packer, who named his son Kerry after him. In 1861 Samuel sold this block along with two others to storekeeper Duncan Cameron for £24. Duncan may have been buoyed by the optimism of the Kiandra goldrush, but in 1863, bankruptcy proceedings were filed against him. After being declared insolvent in November, his assets were liquidated to meet his liabilities. This included the same three blocks of land - Lots 1, 2 and 20 of Section 40 - which were all purchased by Merimbula storekeeper Adam Kirkaldy Page for £110.

It is likely that the slab and weatherboard building at the rear of Lot 20 was constructed during the two years of Duncan's ownership. Although the brief economic boom created by the Kiandra goldrush may have accounted for some rise in the land value, it probably doesn't explain the £86 difference between Cameron's purchase and the sale to Page. However, the existence of a building or buildings on the sites could explain the discrepancy.

In 1873 Adam sold the three blocks for £100 to Sir William Montagu Manning, previously a partner in the powerful Twofold Bay Pastoral Association which owned extensive tracts of agricultural and pastoral land throughout the district. However, before the transfer could be completed, Adam passed away which may account for the title transfers not being completed until September 1875. From Manning, the land was bought by John Behl in 1880; and following his death, were transferred to his wife Mary in 1886. In October that year, Lot 2 of Section 40 was subdivided into two blocks of about 1 rood each, the westerly portion being purchased by Michael Behl and the easterly portion, the section now known as 47 Toallo Street, by George Carl Behl, for £40 each. In November 1888, George Carl sold his block to Frank Behl, butcher, of Pambula, for £240.

Frank operated his Pambula Butchery business from the block and may have taken it on after Robert McKell. It is likely that the front cottage was built around this time, probably at the same time as the building at number 49 next door, and is likely one of the buildings referred to in the 1891 article that said "*New buildings are being erected here and some are complete… The Messrs. Behl are putting the final touched on two dwellings in Toallo street*

and have the foundation in for a third house…" This and the neighbouring building at 49 Toallo Street are virtually the same in design and layout, adding weight to this conclusion.

By 1894, Frank was experiencing financial difficulties, so his brother Michael took over his business until 1895 when he received his discharge from bankruptcy and was able to resume his trade. In 1922, he sold both the business and the property freehold to Isaac Burgess of Wolumla, also a butcher, for £1,600 and original store receipts from the 1930s show him still operating the Pambula Butchery. In July 1939, he sold the business to Mr. J. E. Cole and in 1940, new Lochiel school teacher Mr. Constable and his wife and daughters took up residence in the cottage.

In 1946, Burgess, then of Paddington, sold the allotment, along with a number of other parcels of land in Pambula to Leo Oscar Lees of Bega. As far as can be ascertained, both older buildings were then used as private residences. During about the 1950s, the Kelly family owned the property, occupying the rear building, while Ralph and Joan Severs lived in the one at the front around the same time.

As well as being a private home and a business premises, the weatherboard and slab cottage at the rear has also been a bed and breakfast accommodation. Given its probable age, it may be one of the earliest timber buildings still standing in the main township.

The building at the front has also had various uses, including a private residence, butchery, the original Toad Hall arts and crafts store, named in reference to the original owners' homes at Frog's Hollow and Rocky Hall, a restaurant - McKell's Eating House - renowned for its traditional roasts, a printing shop and now a gallery.

The final building of the trio occupying the site was constructed in 1984, an excellent example of a successful recreation of a typical Pambula-style weatherboard building.

As a group, they make a valuable point of comparison regarding changes in local building materials, styles and techniques during the 19th and 20th centuries. The two older buildings are listed on Schedule 5 of the Bega Valley Shire Council's Local Environment Plan.