## 8. The Uki Main Street Fire



Newspapers across the country reported the Big Blaze at Uki on Sunday 30 August 1914. The fire destroyed the bank, post office, general store and residence. The blaze began in the post office in the early hours of the morning. Villagers rallied as a bucket brigade and managed to limit the damage. It was estimated that the insurance claim was in the vicinity of £5000.

## 9. Uki Fair Trade Shop, 1468 Kyogle Road



The English, Scottish & Australian Bank opened in 1910 on this site. The original timber building was destroyed by fire in 1914. The Bank was rebuilt with expensive imported French fibro and continued to operate until 1931 when it became an agency. The agency closed in 1955 and the building became a private residence. A new owner restored the building to its present appearance in the early 1990s and it has housed various businesses since that time.

*Cross the road and head away from the village, over the Rowlands Creek Bridge.*

## 10. Mount Warning Hotel, 1497 Kyogle Road



The original Mount Warning Hotel was a two storey timber structure built by Fowler Fitzhenry and his uncle, Fowler Askew, in 1914, with the official opening on 22 December. The park area across the road has been named in honour of Mr Fitzhenry. During WWII, when spirits couldn't be sourced, local man, Bunny Ebbsley, made lantana rum to sell at the hotel. The original hotel burnt down in 2013 and a new single storey hotel opened for business in 2015.

## Heritage walk map
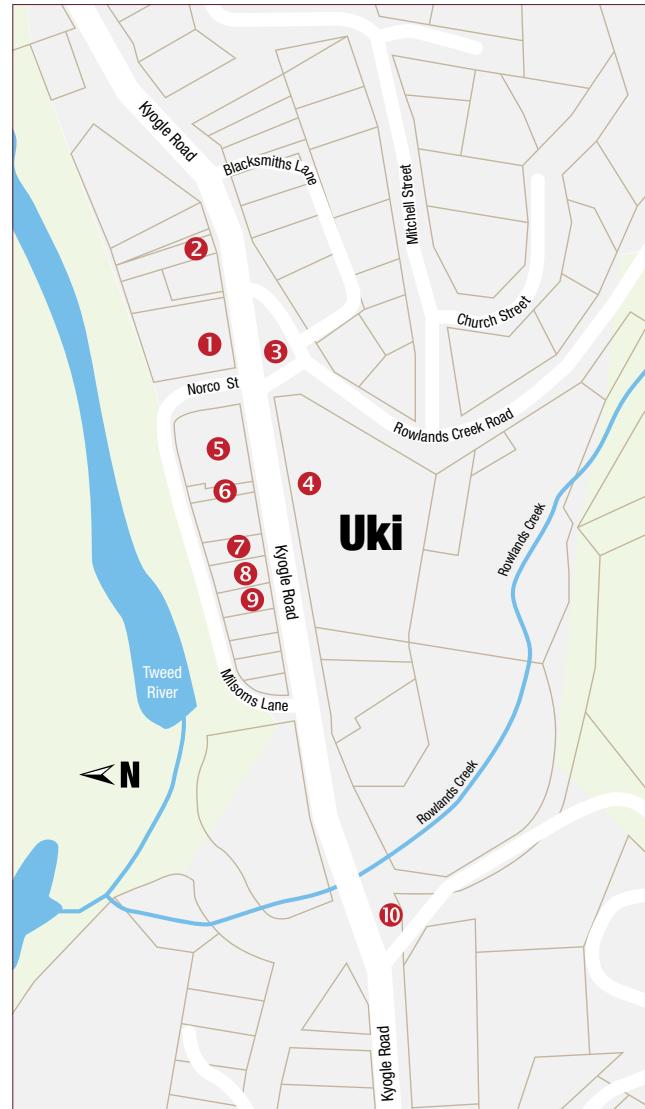


For further information on Tweed Regional Museum visit **museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au** or **TRM Murwillumbah, 2 Queensland Road, Murwillumbah** for comprehensive displays of Tweed history. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am – 4pm.

Cover photograph: Bullock team towing logs, Rowlands Creek crossing, between the Mount Warning Hotel and the village centre, C.1910.

# Uki Village Centre Heritage Walk
## Pictorial guide and map
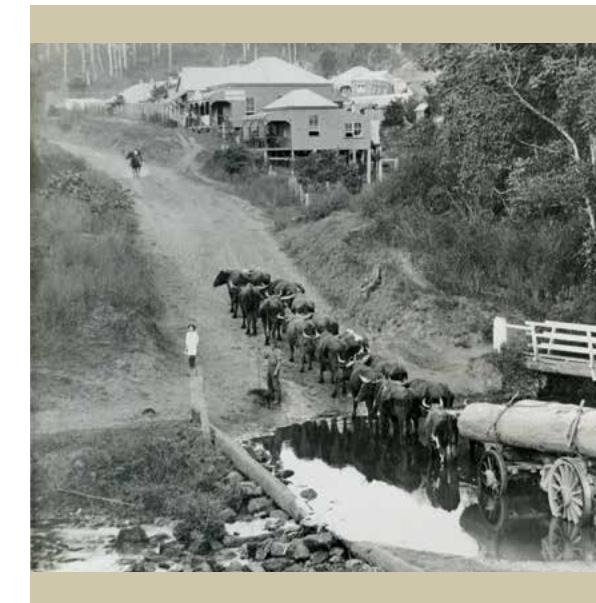


This walk through part of Uki village highlights locations along the main street (Kyogle Road). This is an easy walk and takes approximately one hour. There are numerous shops and places to eat along the route.

Further information on the village and surrounding area is available from Tweed Regional Museum Uki, home of Uki & South Arm Historical Society, (02) 6679 5890 or trmuki@tweed.nsw.gov.au
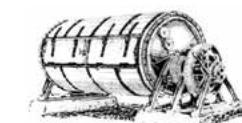


Uki & South Arm Historical Society

**TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM**

## 1. Butter Factory, 1454 Kyogle Road

The Norco Butter Factory opened here in 1910. Local dairy farmers separated the cream from the milk; the cream was then sent by cream carrier to the factory to be processed into butter. In 1914 the factory produced over 149 tons of butter, some of which was exported overseas. The factory was remodelled and enlarged in 1938 and ceased manufacturing in 1947. The butter churn at the front of the building is thought to be the last of its kind in Australia. The factory is now owned by the Residents' Association and is home to local businesses and the monthly Uki Buttery Bazaar markets.

*Continue up Kyogle Road, away from the village centre, for a short distance.*

## 2. Uki Dental Surgery, 1448 Kyogle Road

This building was Uki's first butcher shop. It originally opened in 1909 on the site next door, and moved to this site in 1933. In the early years of operation, deliveries of meat were done on horseback by 11 year old Lionel Mitchell. It continued as a butcher shop until 2007 when it became a pharmacy and dental surgery. The pharmacy part of the building closed in 2011.

*Walk back towards the village and cross Kyogle Road to the War Memorial.*

## 3. Uki War Memorial

The War Memorial was unveiled in 1927 by Mrs George Sweetnam. Mrs Sweetnam was given this honour as she was the oldest female resident to have lost a son in WWI. This memorial is unusual in that it lists all 93 locals who served in WWI, not only those killed in action. The WWII plaque was unveiled after the Anzac Day March in 1952. Sir Roden Cutler unveiled the Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam plaques in 1973.

*Continue towards the village centre, and cross Norco Street to the school.*

## 4. Uki Public School, 1463 Kyogle Road

The first school in the area was Rowlands Creek Provisional School, located about a kilometre from here. The school was moved to a one room building at this site in 1901, with 20 students enrolled; by 1917 enrolments had reached 127. The school was renamed Uki Public School in 1906. In 1923 two acres of land were added to accommodate the students' horses. The original timber classrooms can still be seen at the front of the school.

*Use the pedestrian crossing to cross Kyogle Road to the Hall, directly opposite the school.*

## 5. Uki Public Hall, 1462 Kyogle Road

The original small hall was built as the Mechanics Institute in 1904, and is the oldest public building in Uki. In 1911 a larger hall, the Uki School of Arts, was built and in 1924 the halls were joined together and a façade added to the front. Travelling picture shows often used the hall and a part of the chimney which was used to take away the extreme heat from the projector is still in place in the main hall.

## 6. Uki Post Office, 1464 Kyogle Road
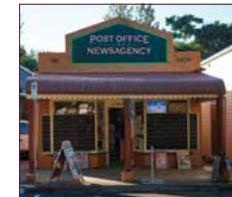
The original Uki Post Office opened in 1910 at a site further down the street, and burnt down in the 1914 fire (see location 8, overleaf). It was reopened at this site in late 1914 in an existing Auctioneer's business. In 1919, Charlie Milsom took over as Postmaster, beginning three generations of Milsom family members as Postmaster. Charlie and his wife, Alma, ran the post office for 52 years, and in 1970 Charlie was awarded the British Empire Medal.

Image courtesy: Vibrant Imaging

## 7. Uki Supermarket, 1466 Kyogle Road

Ryder's Pioneer Store was opened in 1909 on this site. The store was sold to local bullock driver, A S Loder, early in 1914 and later that same year it was destroyed by fire. Mr Loder replaced the original building with a large store and a residence above. This store was reported to have the biggest floor space of any shop between Newcastle and Brisbane. The shop was demolished in 1978 and replaced with the present-day building.

## Uki heritage

The name Uki is taken from the Aboriginal name for Mt Uki, Yugoi, meaning 'bandicoot'.

Unlike many other villages, Uki, according to a report of the Lands Department, was never officially proclaimed; "It just grew up".

It was noted on a map dated 1887, "In the event of a village being proclaimed here, the name Uki might be adopted".

Land sales for blocks in Uki village were held on the 13 December 1905.

By 1914 the village included a general store, school, church, Mechanics Institute and School of Arts, Norco butter factory, E.S. & A. Bank, two butchers, two blacksmiths, coachbuilder, tinsmith, saddler, barber shop, billiard room, hotel, auctioneers, post office, guest house, bakery and tea room, sawmill, bootmaker, newsagency, tobacconist and private residences.