Welcome to Crookwell!

Boasting snow dusted winters with warm cosy fires, autumns ablaze with colour, spring blooms galore and mild and sunny summers. Crookwell is nestled high on the Great Dividing Range and has a town population of 2641 (2016 census) but serves a much wider area of prime farmland.

The first people of this area were the Aboriginal people of the Wiradjuri Nation. The earliest map bearing the name "Crookwell River" was Surveyor Dixon's 1828 trace of the Great Dividing Range between the eastern and western waters. When the town site was surveyed in 1860, Surveyor Armstrong suggested "It would be appropriate to call it Crookwell" and this was finally made official in 1885.

There is much controversy as to how Crookwell got its name and no definitive or conclusive evidence has ever been discovered however Surveyor Dixon's mother came from Crookhall in County Durham and this is the best guess for the origin of the name.

For more historical information:

Crookwell& District Historical Society
Denison Street, Crookwell
Phone: (02) 4832 0630
Email: crookwellhistsoc@yahoo.com.au

The Visitor Information Centre is most appreciative of the support and assistance of the Crookwell and District Historical Society.
Thank you to:
Monica Croke and Dianne Layden for their valuable assistance.
"Uplands Pasture" by William Bayley
"A Pair of Good Hands" Dianne Layden
"Hotels, Inns and Shanties of the Upper Lachlan Shire" Monica Croke

For more information and to organise group tours contact:

Crookwell Visitor Information Centre
36 Goulburn Street, Crookwell
Open: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm / Sat - Sun 10am - 4pm
Phone: (02) 4832 1988
Email: info@visitupperlachlan.com.au
Website: www.visitupperlachlan.com.au

CROOKWELL
GUNNING - TARALGA
Binda · Bigga · Collector · Dalton · Grabben Gullen · Laggan · Tuena

UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

A
SELF-GUIDED
HERITAGE WALK
OF
CROOKWELL

TOWN WALK - SELF-GUIDED

Approximately 1.5hrs

Start walk in Roberts Street alongside the Visitor Information Centre.

① STEPHENSONS MILL Roberts Street
Please note this is a private residence

Stephenson's Mill opened in 1871 with celebration and ceremony, 250 people came to see the newly built Flour Mill which was operated during the opening to demonstrate to the settlers the action of the steam engine. Stephenson's Mill functioned as a Flour Mill until the end of the 19th century.

② COMMERCIAL HOTEL (THE HORSE AND HOUND) Corner Roberts and Goulburn Street

Edward Stephenson built the hotel, obtained the license and began trading as the Commercial Hotel in 1871 where the present Court House stands. In 1874 the hotel began trading across the road in its present location. In 1931 the "Commercial" was rebuilt by Sam McCloskey. The hotel had a change of name in 1996-1997 to "The Horse and Hound".

The Commercial Hotel
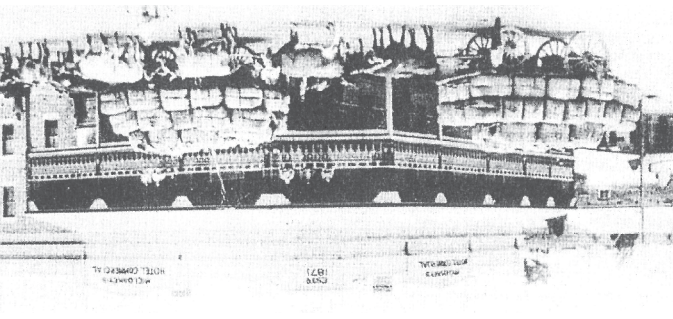
*Turn right into Goulburn Street.*

"Note the wide streets of Crookwell which accommodated the turning of large bullock teams during the 1800's.

Bullock wagon leaving Crookwell.

③ POLICE STATION

Troopers were stationed in Binda from the 1840s and the first constable was not appointed in Crookwell until the early 1870s as holdups increased across the district. Crookwell first petitioned for a police station in 1869 however it was not until 1878 that a court house and lockup was completed (now the Police residence). The courtroom proved inadequate by the end of the 1880s and plans were commenced for the current Court complex which included a new police station in the left hand wing.

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④ COURT HOUSE

The historic Court House and Lands Office was constructed by William Pearman to the designs of Government Architect, Walter L. Vernon. Built in the Victorian Free Classical style it was opened in 1891. The Court House is still in operation on demand. The original court house located on the corner of Roberts and Goulburn Streets still serves as a police residence
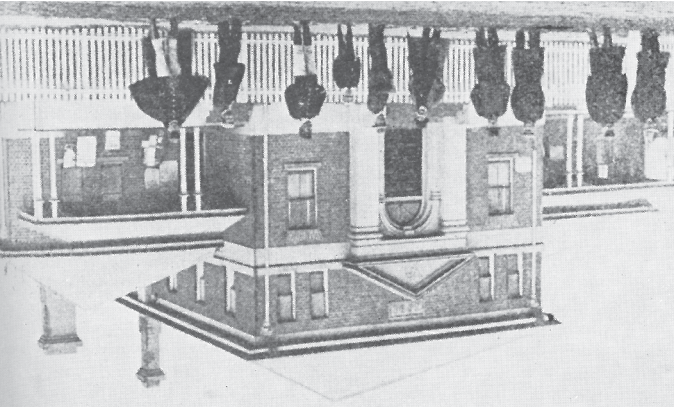
Court House and Lands Office 1905

⑤ MILL HOUSE HOTEL (THE ROYAL HOTEL - SPUD MURPHY'S INN)

This hotel was first established in 1873 and initially named the "Mill House Hotel". In 1884, licensee Charles Harvey completely rebuilt the hotel adding another floor. In 1890, he changed the name to "The Royal Hotel". In 2003, new owners Barry and Denielle Murphy changed its name to "Spud Murphy's Inn" and although it does not have a publican's license the old hotel still offers accommodation to travellers.

Turn right into Laggan Road, then right into Pat Cullen Reserve.
Follow the path over the bridge and head left towards Kiamma Creek.

⑥ PAT CULLEN RESERVE – KIAMMA CREEK

The Kiamma Creek Landcare Group holds regular volunteer working bees to keep the park in top shape including overseeing the removal of willows from the creek, and the planting of native tree species to create a biodiversity corridor.

The park and walkway (and resident ducks) are a delight to visitors and locals alike. The access ramp has a mural depicting native birds and animals painted by students from Crookwell High School along with local artists Sally Wilson and Margaret Shepherd. The wooden platypus and eagle were carved by Welsh artist Adam Humphrey. Keep an eye out for platypus as you follow the walkway along the creek.

Follow the boardwalk – turn right into Saleyards Road – then turn left into Findhorn Street.

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⑦ CROOKWELL RAILWAY STATION

Crookwell is a significant surviving pioneer terminus station and yard with most elements intact from the date of opening in 1902, including the 60 foot cast iron William Sellars Turntable which was used to turn the steam locomotives. The line from Goulburn to Crookwell represents an early period of growth by the railways to areas of marginal revenue. The complex is the best surviving of its type in NSW and is heritage listed for this reason. Trains carried both passengers and freight with the main sources of traffic being potatoes and livestock and later, superphosphate. Iron ore was also loaded and transported during the war. The last train to run was in March 1984 and the line was decommissioned in 1989 but officially remains as "disused" and not "closed". The Goulburn Crookwell Heritage Railway group maintain the station museum the station contains many items from a bygone era.

Crookwell Railway Station in the winter of 1907

Continue along Colyer Street.

⑧ CROOKWELL COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Crookwell Community Gardens are an initiative of the Crookwell Progress Association and the Crookwell Neighborhood Centre. With support from local council and community groups, the gardens are being developed to provide a green oasis where residents can meet, grow fresh produce and share skills and knowledge. In the longer term the gardens will become a venue for a wide variety of workshops and events relating to environmentally friendly gardening, social inclusion and sustainable small scale food production.

Turn right into Marsden Street.
You will find Memorial Park towards the end of the block on the left.

⑨ CROOKWELL WAR MEMORIAL

The Crookwell War Memorial and Memorial Park commemorate members of the community who have served in armed conflicts. It consists of several structures that have been developed over a period of time. Once a fenced park, then developed into the original gate pillars, inscribed with names of the fallen from the Boer War, WW1 and WW11, were installed in 1925 but have since been relocated to the south eastern boundary. The new shrine with its brass cross was unveiled on 29th March 2003. The park is host to our important Anzac Day remembrance service and Australia Day ceremonies.

10 COUNTRY WOMENS ASSOCIATION ROOMS

The Crookwell CWA was established in 1922 and was the first branch of the CWA to be established in New South Wales. It was initially set up due to the hardships experienced by rural women and families. The CWA women provided enormous support to new mothers in the region, raising money to fund a staffed Baby Health Clinic. When war broke out, the CWA were there at the ready. Putting their skills to work during the war years, the ladies made Anzac biscuits and comfort packs for the troops, camouflage nets from rope, sewed vests, spun wool and knitted socks from the wool of local sheep. The CWA is still very active today, meeting regularly in this hall that was built over 60 years ago.

11 "MONTROSE", Private Hospital 1923 to 1930
*Please note that "Montrose" is now a private residence

In 1922 a license was approved for an eight bed (Medical, Surgical and Lying - In) private hospital at "Montrose". Matron Florence Tulloh was the licensee and opened "Montrose" in 1923. The hospital dealt with general as well as maternity cases. The hospital closed in 1930, when Matron Tulloh moved to Harley Private Hospital.

During Matron Tulloh's time in Crookwell (1919 to 1946), she delivered or was present at the births of at least 2318 babies.

12 SHIRE CHAMBERS

The local Shire Council was formed on 26th February 1902. The present building was built in 1912 at a cost of 996 Pounds.

You will notice a large cement water trough (now used as a flower bed) at the front of the Shire Chambers. Up until the 2nd World War, horses were the main means of transport in the area. Horses often covered enormous distances. With animal welfare their main objective, the Bill family generously donated a large sum of money for the manufacture of these water troughs, which were distributed to many regional towns across NSW. Keep an eye out for these as you travel to country towns in the region.

13 THE BANK HOUSE
Corner of Spring and Goulburn Street

Originally operating as "Pitty's General Store", the Bank of NSW purchased the building in 1876 and established the first bank branch in the village. This facilitated ordinary business transactions, the cashing of cheques for locals and the circulation of silver in Crookwell. The building was rebuilt in 1914 and included a bank manager's residence.

Bank of New South Wales in 1876

14 TATTERSALS HOTEL
**(STAR / CROOKWELL HOTEL MOTEL)**

Originally operated as the "Tattersalls Hotel" in 1877. The hotel changed its name to the "Star Hotel" in 1879-1880 and later became known as "The Hotel Crookwell." During the Second World War (1939-1945) there was an observation post built on the roof and manned 24 hours a day by volunteers to report all aircraft over the area.

15 CROWN THEATRE

The Baxter brothers Sid and Bert built the Crown Theatre in 1926 after buying the rights to silent moving films in Crookwell in 1915. Seating 900 people, the pictures initially screened twice weekly, and in 1948 four pictures were screened each week. The Crown Theatre is now a popular family-run restaurant and children's play centre.

16 AMBULANCE AND FIRE STATION

Crookwell District Ambulance Service was inaugurated in 1940 as a branch of the Goulburn Ambulance Service. A group of volunteer officers and drivers operated the service, supported by a strong Ladies Ambulance Auxiliary. Prior to the advent of the Ambulance Service, the sick and injured were conveyed to hospital by sulkies and buggies. Flood waters, heavy rain and snow made road conditions difficult for many call outs. The Ambulance Service operated in the same building as the Fire Station. The first full time ambulance officer W.L Gorman was appointed in 1945.
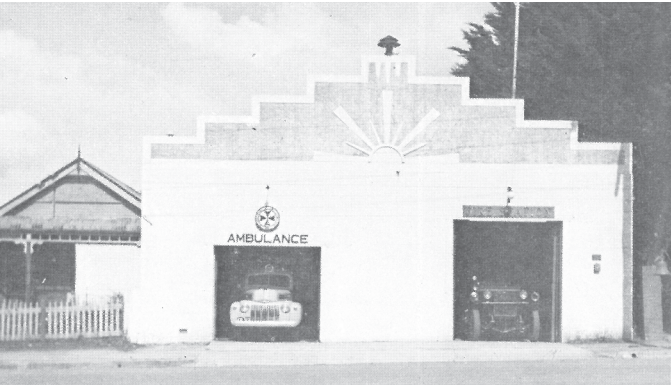
The first Crookwell Ambulance and Fire Station

17 PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH (CROOKWELL RSL)

Built of stone to seat 120 people, the Primitive Methodist Church was opened in 1871 and was in use until 1901. In 1939, the church was gradually extended, and transformed into what was first known as the "Crookwell Returned Sailors and Soldiers Club". Note the original building behind the front facade. In 1944 the name of the club was changed to the "Crookwell Services Club".

Primitive Methodist Church.

18 OMAGH Private Maternity Hospital
*Please note "Omagh" is now a private residence

"Omagh" was a Private Maternity Hospital from 1910-1915 and the licensee was the much loved and well respected midwife Mary (Minnie) Siggs.
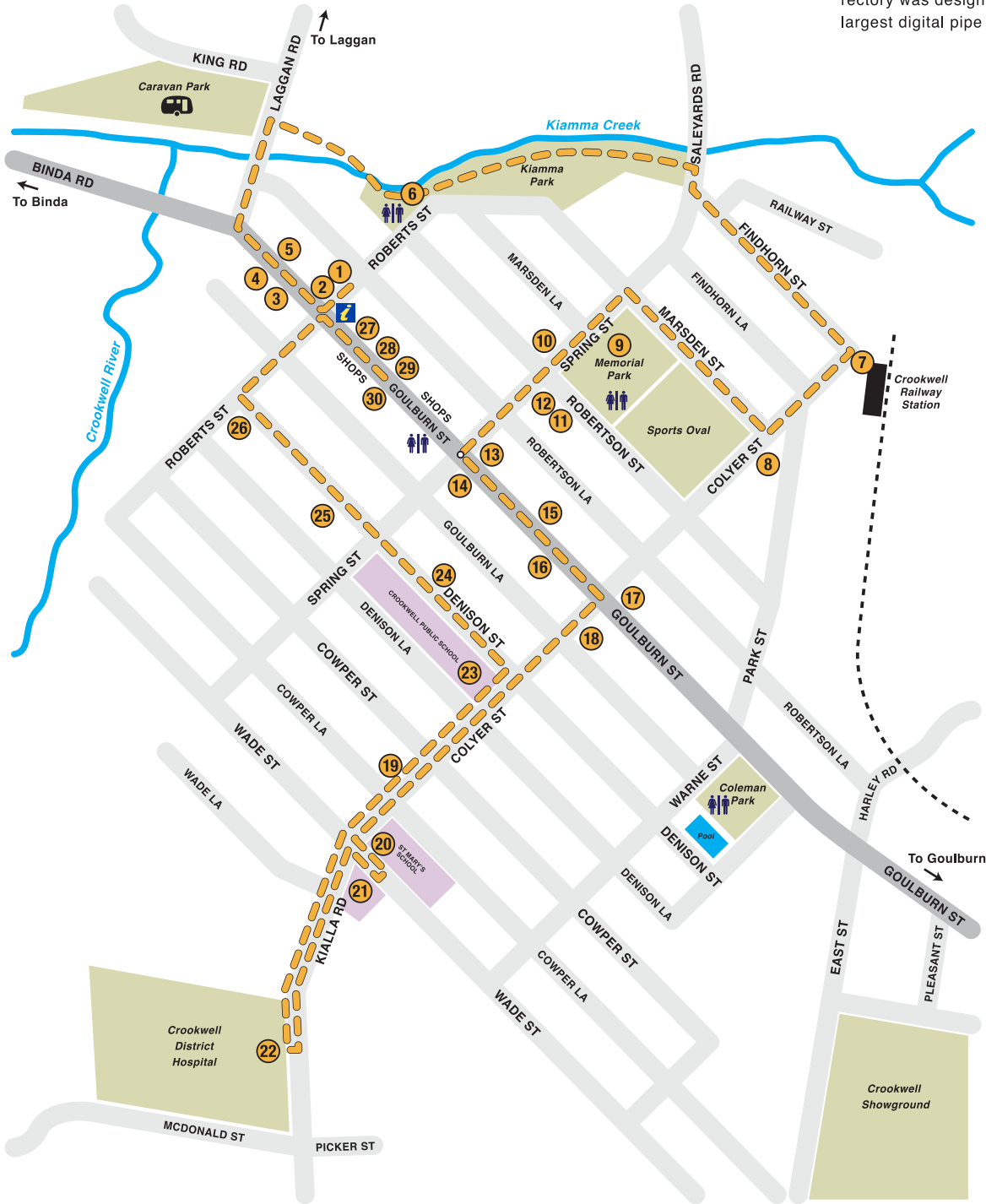
19 ST ANDREWS PREBYTERIAN CHURCH

This stone church with its fine fretwork was opened in 1882 at a cost of 300 pounds. The church was built on this elevated site overlooking the town of the day. Except for the replacement of the shingles with galvanized iron in the 1920's, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church remains unaltered to this day.

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

20 ST MARYS SCHOOL

The Sisters of Mercy Catholic School was originally built beside the St Mary's Convent in 1903. In 1912 the St Mary's Model School was opened across the road, and the Infants School (St Josephs) was built in 1929. The current school site was opened in 1948 and has served many generations of families in the area.

St Mary's Church, Presbytery and Convent are located in Wade Street.

21 ST MARYS CHURCH, PRESBYTERY AND CONVENT

St Mary's church was opened in 1891. The church was completely destroyed by fire in 1958, leaving only the stonework. The church was re-opened in 1959 with its Australian Colonial themed stained glass windows. St Mary's Presbytery was built in 1877. Originally a one storey building, the newer two storey Presbytery was built in 1918.

Return to Colyer Street and turn left.

22 CROOKWELL DISTRICT HOSPITAL

The original, single storey, cottage hospital to the right, was built in 1906 and opened in 1907 starting initially as a 5 bed hospital. The newer section to the left was completed in 1955. The hospital is an 18 bed community acute care facility with a 2 bed emergency department open 24/7. The hospital offers a variety of allied health and community nursing services as well as a Wellness Centre. The Crookwell community has banded together with some extraordinary fund raising efforts and "generosity of heart" in support of the hospital from its very early years and continues to do so to this day.

Return back along Colyer Street, then turn left into Denison Street.

23 CROOKWELL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Opening in 1865, the school operated in various privately owned locations. In 1873 the government purchased two acres (present location) and in 1874 the first school building was constructed out of stone and rubble. This building was demolished in 1897 and replaced with the current administration building. From 1944 to 1967 secondary students attended schooling on this site and the school became known for this period as Crookwell District Rural School. In 2015 Crookwell Public School celebrated 150 years of public education.

24 MASONIC TEMPLE AND HALL

The Masonic Temple and Hall were built in 1908, with restoration completed in 1927.

25 TEMPERANCE HALL (MEMORIAL CENTRE)

An organization known as the Sons of Temperance was formed in 1878. It held meetings in the old Temperance Hall which was built in 1889. The front entrance to the complex utilises the original building which has been expanded and modified over the years. Today, the building houses the library, the Crookwell and District Historical Society, Crookwell Art Gallery and the Memorial Hall. The hall plays host to wonderful annual productions by the Crookwell Amateur Dramatic Society as well as being home to Lambert Karate Dojo and larger local events.

26 ST BARTHOLOMEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The first Church of England was situated in this position. Built in 1866, the church became too small and in 1904 a new St Bartholomew's was built. Both of these churches were demolished, and the present day St Bartholomew's Church was built and opened in 1969. The church rectory was designed by EC Manfred. The church is home to one of the largest digital pipe organs in the Southern Hemisphere.

As you proceed along Goulburn Street – cast your eye up to the top storey of the buildings. Architecturally, Crookwell's main street evolved from the mid 1800-1900s with the shopfront facades and parapets displaying a rich variety of architectural history and decorative design - from colonial design through to federation and on to art deco.


27 METHODIST MANSE (ES&A BANK / ANZ BANK / SMR ACCOUNTANTS)

The original structure (the Methodist Manse) was built in 1881. The new front was added in 1926 and the building became the E.S&A Bank, then later, the ANZ Bank. The new brick parsonage was built in Robertson Street behind the church the same year.

28 WESLEYAN CHURCH (METHODIST CHURCH / WESLEYAN UNITING CHURCH)

Opened in March 1866, this church was built as the Wesleyan Church which later became the Methodist Church and then the Wesleyan Uniting Church as it is today. This was the first church and the first building to be built in the Crookwell Township.
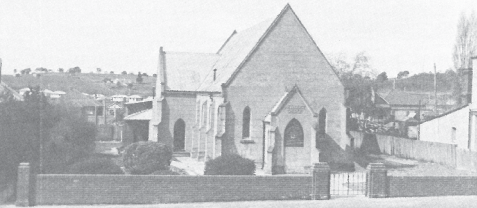
Crookwell Methodist Church without its current facade in the 1950s.
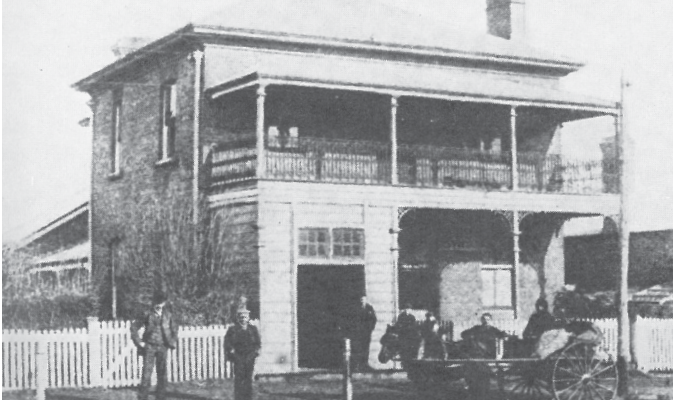
29 CRITERION HOTEL - 1890

Sitting on land that was once the old cricket ground, the Criterion hotel was built by Francis Gilmartin in 1890. At the time, the hotel was so far from the centre of town that locals said it would never succeed! Among their services, hotels in Crookwell provided a horse bus to and from the railway station for passengers much like today's shuttle service. The Harvey family bought the hotel in 1904 and Mrs Harvey celebrated 50 years of service at the Criterion in 1954.

30 CROOKWELL POST OFFICE

Crookwell Post Office opened in 1867 in rented premises. George Gordon was the postmaster and Thomas Wade was the contractor for the Carriage of Mail once a week. This increased to twice a week in 1870, and in 1875 mail delivery increased to three times a week. In the winter months poor road conditions and weather delayed the arrival of mail. Residents petitioned in 1883 for an official Post Office which was opened on the present site in 1890 at a cost of 1000 pounds.

Walk concludes.

Crookwell Post Office 1905