

### St Raphael's Catholic Church

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The first St. Raphael's Church held the first mass on Wednesday February 13th 1861. It was built of stone on true Gothic lines and may be seen today incorporated into the Bridgeline Convent. The second church was demolished to make way for the third church in 1937. It is of Romanesque architecture with a Spanish tiled roof. The 27 metre high tower houses the bell which is over 100 hundred years old.

The park was established to recognise George Evans exploration of the Lachlan River. He left Bathurst and arrived at the banks of the Lachlan in 1815. He named the river in honour of Governor Lachlan Macquarie. After exploring up river, near to where Cowra is now situated, Evans named the area 'Oxley Plains' after his superior, the Surveyor General.

### Surveyor Evans Park

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Planted each side of the Grenfell and Boorowa road approaches to Cowra, the Avenue of Honour was the work of the Woman's Club in 1917. As an alternative to a conventional monument, the trees would not only act as a memorial for the soldiers but also beautify the district. 400 trees were planted representing over 450 soldiers from Cowra and district who served in the First World War.

The Australian Hotel stands on the site of Cowra's first hotel, The Fitzroy Arms. The Fitzroy Arms was built in 1846 during the governorship of Fitzroy. Originally it was a low building with a shingle roof. Over time, there were frequent changes of management and a number of extensions and improvements. Under the ownership of David Middlemiss, it became the local post office from 1852 to 1854. It was purchased in 1906 by John Lamplough and he extended the eastern end to where it is now. About 1870, the name was changed to the Australian Arms and later to the Australian Hotel.



### Australian Hotel

3



### Memorial Avenue

1

Built about 1862 and situated near the river, the hotel was often inundated by flooding. It ceased trading as a hotel in 1869 and alternated as a boarding house then hotel over the next few years. The building was partially destroyed by fire in 1915 and was rebuilt by James Muir. In 1941 it was purchased by Mrs Foster who enclosed the verandahs and converted the property into flats.



### Great Western Hotel

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### Squire Pepper & Co Building

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Originally owned by J.E. Taylor the building was purchased by Phillip Squire in 1883 and later became known as the Squire Pepper & Co building. The original store was replaced in the mid 1930's. The second store was destroyed by fire in 1949. The Art Deco building occupied by Target now stands on the original site.

### Aboriginal History

The Cowra district is part of Wiradjuri country, one of the largest Aboriginal language groups in Australia. In Wiradjuri dialect, the word 'coura' means rocks, an appropriate name for a town with rocky granite surrounds. About 1847 the river crossing at Coura Rocks became known as Cowra. In 1849 it was proclaimed a settlement. Take time to see the Aboriginal paintings under the main bridge.

### Other Sites of Interest

Some of the interesting residences of Cowra can be seen by walking along Liverpool, Lachlan and Keswick Streets.

### Cowra & District Historical Society

The Historical Society rooms are located at the rear of the Cowra Visitor's Centre, Olympic Park, Mid Western Highway, Cowra

**Open:** Thursday 9am - 12pm  
Saturday 9am - 12pm  
Other times by appointment

**Contacts:** Norm Egan 6342 2895  
Annette Pringle 6342 4586  
Lawrance Ryan 6341 3337  
Madeleine Rankin 6342 9282

### Acknowledgements

The Cowra Heritage Walk brochure has been prepared by the Cowra and District Historical Society.

We would like to acknowledge the assistance of Cowra Tourism Corporation.

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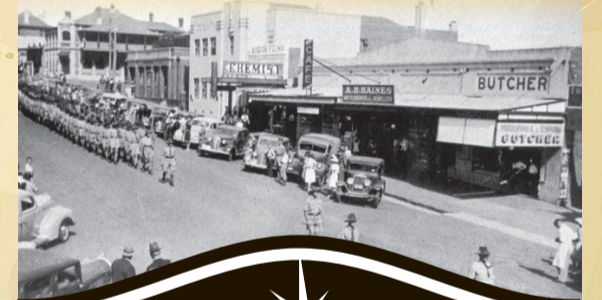


### Cowra Visitor Centre

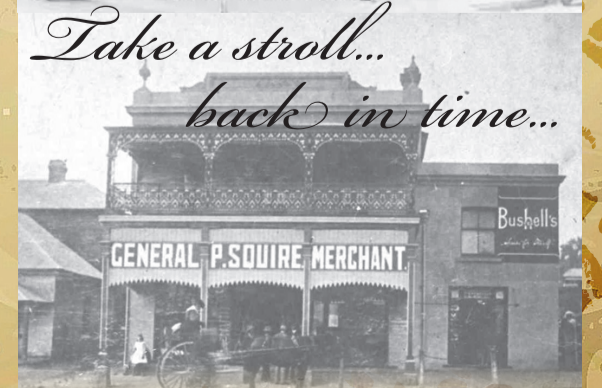
Olympic Park, Mid Western Highway  
(PO Box 34) COWRA NSW 2794

P: 02 6342 4333 F: 02 6342 4563  
E: info@cowratourism.com.au

www.cowratourism.com.au



# Cowra HERITAGE Walk



Take a stroll...  
back in time...

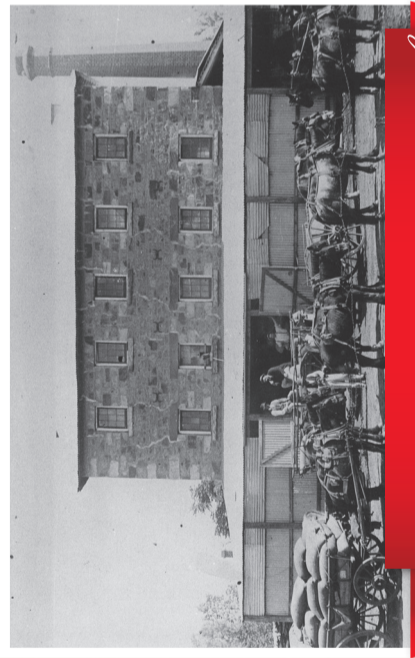




## Garden & Montgomerie Solicitors

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Opened on April 16th 1875, the building was owned by Charles Moore and, later, his widow Margaret. The Joint Stock Bank, managed by A. P. Stewart, leased the building until 1903. It is currently owned by Garden & Montgomerie Solicitors.



## Old Stone Flour Mill

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The mill was built in 1860 for Patrick and Thomas Walsh. It was opened on Wednesday January 13th 1861 before a large crowd of townfolk. To celebrate the occasion, a grand ball was held on the top floor. Prior to this, the closest mill was in Carcoar.



## Cowra Public School

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Education began in Cowra in 1851. It was some years before a permanent school was built. On July 1st 1858, the National Board of Education approved the establishment of a public school in Cowra. Madame Rigout was the teacher and so this date marks the beginning of public education in Cowra.



## Allan Gray & Co Auctioneers

9

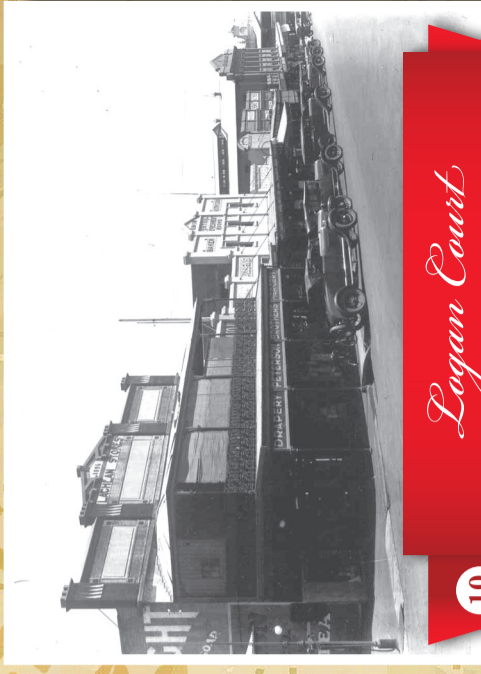
The Allan Gray & Co building was built in 1861 by Stephen Alford. As it was a very wet year, one of the walls collapsed during construction. The building has changed hands many times and the facade has been altered. The original building can only be seen from the rear. Current owners, Allan Gray & Co purchased the building from the E.S & A Bank.



## Uniting Church

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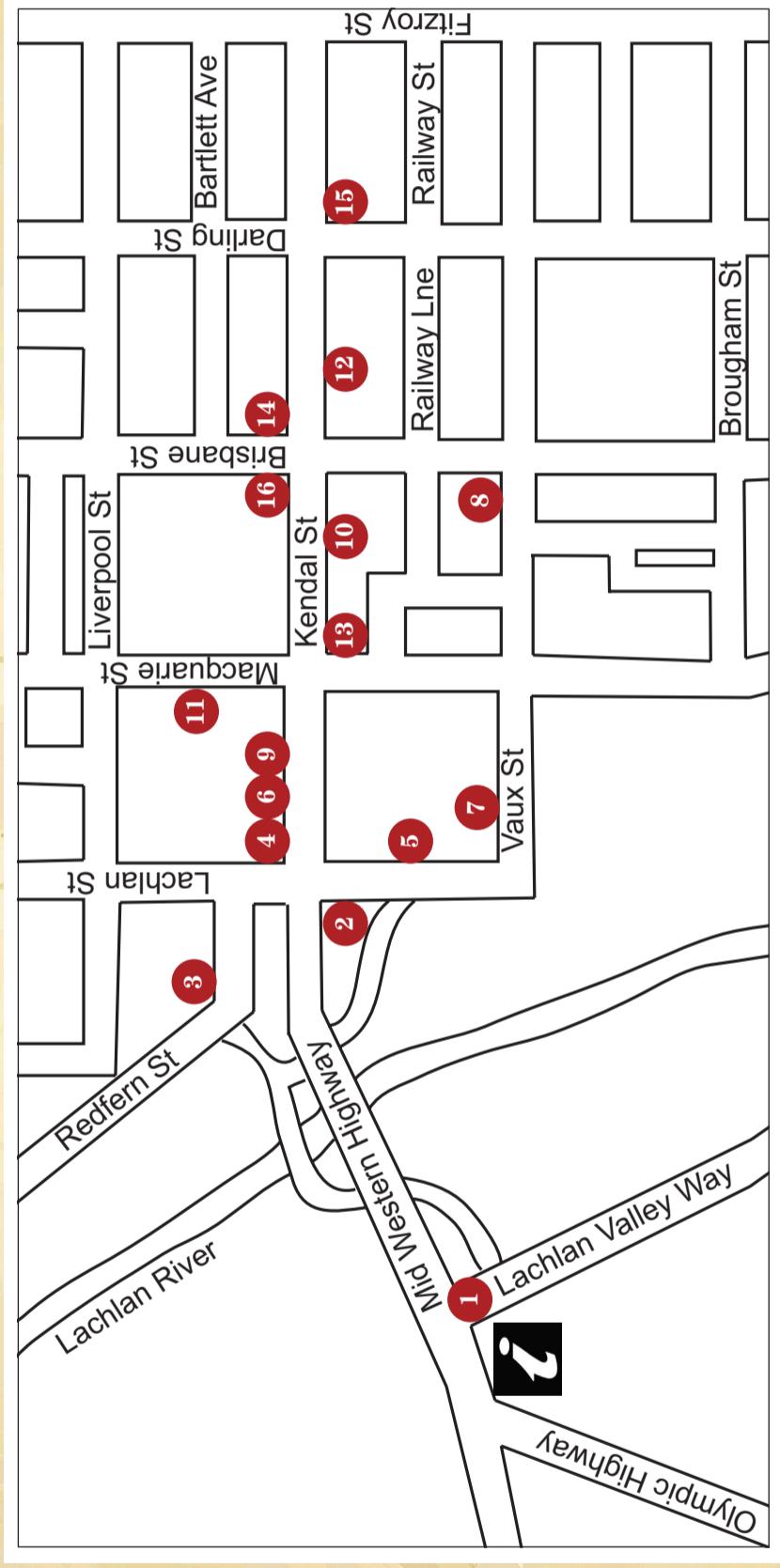
In 1854 two land grants were made to the Cowra Wesleyan Methodist Church. The foundation stone was laid in November 1889 and, six months later, the church was opened on June 29th 1890. The sanctuary was remodelled in 1950 as a memorial to those who served in World War 11 and to those who pioneered Methodism in Cowra. A porch was added in 1989.



## Logan Court

10

Logan Court was built in 1896 and was then known as Lachlan Stores. It is remembered for its shady lace verandah and the many shops that traded there. It changed ownership six times up to 1951. The verandahs were removed in the 1950's and the building was fully renovated in 1996.



## Cowra Court House

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The Court House was built by Mr Ford using Lane bricks. It was opened on August 28th 1880 but remained unused until furniture arrived in April 1881. Three additional rooms were built in 1882 and, in December that year, Cowra was appointed a District Court jurisdiction.

## Reid Smith Building

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In 1924, Reid Smith and Co purchased two blocks of land on the corner of Kendal and Macquarie Streets and built a two storey department store. Reid Smith and Co sold everything from bobby pins to furniture, farm supplies to food. In 1988, the building was extended and renovated to create a modern shopping plaza. The refurbishment of Cowra Plaza was completed in 2000.

## Ifracombe Residence

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Ifracombe was built as a private residence by Nicholas Challacombe in 1879. His wife died suddenly so he sold the house to L.J.Sloan. For many years, it was the residence and surgery of Dr. Alex and Dr Enid McLaren. Hugh and Judy McLaren restored the building and converted it to a restaurant.



## St Peter's Presbyterian Church

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The foundation stone of St Peters was laid on September 20th 1860. The first Protestant church along the Lachlan River, St Peters opened for worship in 1861. It was built using Lane bricks on local granite foundations. The original still stands behind the present one and is used as a hall. Work on the new church began in 1911 and it was opened on October 22nd 1913.