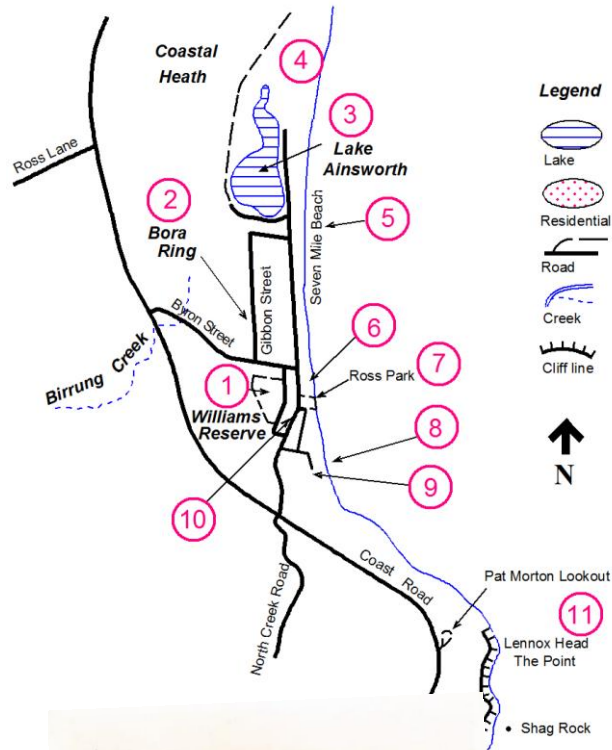


Lennox Head



1940s

A PANORAMA OF LENNOX HEAD.

10. Post Office and general store 1960s



The first 10 points of interest can be viewed via a comfortable walk around the village, starting at Williams Reserve near the Community Centre and finishing in the main street. Lennox Point (11) is a pleasurable walk south along the beach.

You can find more of Lennox Head's past in:

- *North Creek to Lennox Head, an Early Photographic Journey*
- *Lennox Head Progresses with the Aid of its Progress Associations*
- *Silent Echoes, the Story of Upper North Creek and Lennox Head Post Offices 1880-2000*
- *Ring the Bell Backwards, Memories of Early North Creek and Lennox Head*

available at Ballina Visitors' Information Centre or Lennox Bookmark, 2/66 Ballina Street, Lennox Head.

6. Tea Tree Fence c1970



9. The Lagoon c1910



A Lennox Head Heritage Committee Publication
 Compiled by Robyn Hargrave and Malcolm Milner October 2016
 The Lennox Head Heritage Committee (LHHC) is a sub-committee of the Lennox Head Residents' Association Inc. We are keen to expand our collection of early photographs, newspaper articles and interesting stories of Lennox Head. Please share yours with us. Contact the Convenor at harg1rob@gmail.com or 0412 660 994 or visit us at <https://lennoxheadheritage.com/>

Photos courtesy of: Craig Parry, (3)/(4) LHHC, (6) Malcolm Lowe, (9) Richmond River Historical Society Inc Lennox Head 1953-254-39, (10) and 1940s Panorama LHHC, (11) Peter Green

A printable version of this brochure is available at: <https://lennoxheadheritage.com/> or <https://www.discoverballina.com.au/visit/our-region/nature-outdoors> or <http://communityspaces.com.au/>

Lennox Head Village Heritage Trail

A Brief History of Lennox Head

Lennox Head is located on Bundjalung land, approximately between the Clarence and Logan Rivers and first settled by three brothers, Yarbirri, Marmoon and Birrung. According to oral tradition, Yarbirri thrust a spear into the sand and fresh water ran.

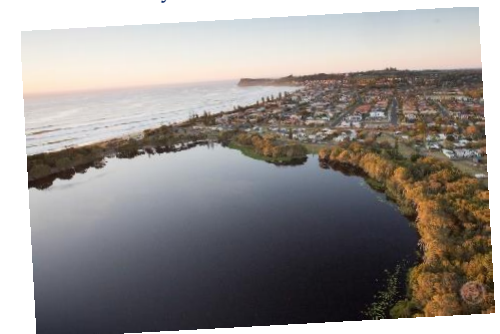
The Njangbal dialect group is thought to have occupied the area now known as Lennox Head and Ballina. John Ainsworth, one of Lennox Heads' first settlers, records that in 1847 approximately 500 Aboriginal people lived in the region.

In 1828 Captain Henry James Rous, on the survey ship HMAS Rainbow, named Lennox Head after his friend, Charles, Duke of Lennox and Richmond. From 1842, freed convicts who logged the then abundant cedar trees, established small colonies in Ballina and Upper North Creek.

Others commenced to farm the area after the 1861 Robertson Land Bill allowed free selection of crown land which, in Lennox, could be purchased for as little as 4 shillings an acre. By the 1900s Lennox boasted a school, an Anglican church, a public hall and a post office.

When public bathing was legalised, the beach grew in popularity. Development of the Village followed the Lennox Head Estate land auction of 1922.

The population of Lennox has grown from 149 in 1943 to over 7,000 today.



Craig Parry

1. Williams' Reserve. Henry Williams arrived in NSW in 1827 as a convict, sentenced to 14 years for receiving stolen money. After gaining his certificate of freedom in 1853 he travelled to Ballina and his son Charles acquired a large amount of land at Upper North Creek. In 1959 the family's land was unwillingly forfeited to the local council for £1,184 (\$34,281 today) and became known as Williams' reserve. Proposed by some as a caravan park, residents began using it as a sports field. Today it encompasses the community centre and skateboard park. Surrounding land is a fragile ecological area with endangered littoral forests.

2. Lennox Head Bora Ring, one of only eleven in NSW used to initiate boys aged 12-14 into the tribe, is a reminder of the ceremonial sphere of Aboriginal life and is. The larger circle was the site for public parts of the ceremony and a smaller circle reserved for secret rites. It is said that Aboriginal people destroyed the smaller circles to protect ritual secrets. A network of Bora Rings attests to the existence of complex environmental, social and cultural relationships between groups within the Bundjalung Nation. **Please do not walk** into the Bora Ring-it is an offence in traditional lore for anyone without authority to enter it. A management plan was adopted in 2006 to ensure the conservation of this historic Aboriginal site.

3. Lake Ainsworth The aquifer fed waters of the Lake are contained by an impervious rock layer. Tea trees tannins stain the water a tea-like colour and are said to have antiseptic qualities. The Lake is an Aboriginal heritage site with the western side preserved for men only, but the entire tribe could access the north and east. Part of the Lake was sacred to women, used as a women's bathing area and played a ritualistic role in the birthing process.

3. and 4. Lake Ainsworth Diving Tower and first Girls' Fitness Centre Camp
1944



Lake Ainsworth was named after early settler, James Ainsworth (1843-1924), who farmed Upper North Creek. During gold and mineral mining in Lennox, the Lake was proposed for sluicing until resident outrage prevented this.

The fresh water Lake is only 100 meters from the beach and is a fragile ecological area with its health an ongoing concern. Pressure of numerous visitors contributes to erosion and accumulation of detrimental nutrients.

4. The National Fitness Camp was established at Lake Ainsworth in the 1940s. Children were taught about the outdoors and different flora and fauna in the surrounding littoral forest. Now known as Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation, it is run by the Office of Sport and is mooted as the site for Australia's first Winter Olympic ski training facility.

5. Seven Mile Beach. During the Great Depression and up to World War II, gold and minerals were discovered in pockets of black sand called "sniggers" on Seven Mile Beach. This "gold rush" led to sand mining, thought to have quickened erosion. Although mining died out as the "sniggers" slowly disappeared, the dream of finding a fortune lived on. In the 1960s, Argels constructed a mining plant claimed to recover gold from seawater based on his belief that gold originated from sea precipitation. Inevitably, his venture was unsuccessful.

Seven Mile Beach provides a view to the 2-3 km midden, a pile of oyster shells discarded by Aboriginals over hundreds of years and stands as testament to the wealth of the Bundjalung people. Seven Mile Beach traditionally hosted the "battle" between local Aboriginal people and northern tribes. Each tribe would position itself at opposite ends of the beach and the resulting clash determined the toughest tribe and strongest individual. Serious casualties were rare and the people enjoyed regular feasts on such occasions.

6. Tea (Ti) Tree Fence. 1960s' cyclones eroded the beach, collapsed entire dunes and destroyed vegetation. In response, a team of volunteers, on a proposal by Bill Tresise, a Lismore businessman, banded together to build a tea tree fence to dissipate the force of the waves. The plan was modelled on tea tree fencing (still visible) constructed in front of his property. In 1967, during 6 weekends of Operation Ti-Tree, over 100 volunteers manhandled 8000 logs to form the fence. It stretched between the Fitness Camp and Byron Street where sand dunes are today. The women's catering committee provided volunteers with food and drinks.

7. Ross Park is named after Tommy Ross, a Tintenbar Shire Councillor, owner of large amounts of Lennox land. He played a pivotal role in obtaining an adequate water supply

for the village. A dressing shed once stood where the park is situated. In the 1930s several park picnic shelters were constructed from tea tree poles and bark. Between the ocean and the present park there was a cricket strip and tennis court, both since claimed by the sea. Today, Ross Park is a popular gathering place with a children's playground.

8. The Boat Channel. In 1920 Digger White manually moved rocks of the reef creating a sandy bank to fish and swim. The Channel was known as Langdon's after Bill Langdon who had a nearby market garden. In 1946, the Gibbon brothers used a handmade boat to create today's channel.

9. The Lagoon. A freshwater lagoon once existed on the sea side of Allens Parade before large seas removed the protective sand dune and the lagoon and its spring joined the sea. As the town gained popularity, demand for property increased and the lagoon was filled to create a housing estate.

10. The Post Offices. Between 1913 and 1963, postal services were administered from George and Maud Myers' dairy farm on North Creek Road, until the business was passed to their son Pat. **The general store and Post Office** was one of the earliest shops in Lennox constructed by Charlie Roots in 1927. People collected water supplies from the spear-point pump located in front of the store.

11. Lennox Point is an iconic surfing area regarded as one of the world's best. Considered to be of major significance to the development of the Australian surfing culture, in 2008 it was dedicated a National Surfing Reserve which extends from the south side of Flat Rock to Lennox Head Alstonville Surf Club. The Point is the jewel of this Reserve with deep sand banks and a consistent right hand break which was allegedly first surfed in 1958 by Barry Regan and since has built a strong global reputation.



11. Lennox Point 1973