

Looking to your left:

(19) 1892 The Railway Bridge and Gas Works The town railway and gas works both made huge improvements to the progress of Yass. With the construction of the Gas Works, the town was able to have street lighting for the first time and the railway meant quicker access to the major centres.

Proceed under the Hume Bridge, noting the murals painted by local indigenous youth in 1999 and 2004. Follow the pathway through Riverbank Park and cross the footbridge over Chinaman's Creek.

(20) 2011 Hume Bridge Arches The two arches on the footbridge were previously used on the old Hume Bridge (1871-1977).

Proceed along Church Street

(21) 1850 St Clement's Anglican Church Designed by colonial architect Edmund Blacket, the spire and tower were added several years later and an addition to the side of the building was made in 1879. A peal of six bells was hung in 1868 and the bells are still rung regularly. The graveyard at the back of the church was consecrated c1845 and closed in 1869.

(22) c1842 The Rectory Built opposite the church, the rectory has been the home of the Yass Anglican Ministers since its construction. The building faces Comur Street, a common feature in early Yass homes.

Return to Comur Street Via Rossi Street

(23) 1862 The Oriental Bank Built by prominent Yass builder WH Downey. From 1868-1886 it was the premise of the Australian Joint Stock Bank. The building was purchased by TP Williamson in 1897 and used as The Times Bakery. Williamson extended the building and remained in business there until 1916.

(24) 1887 MUIOOF Building This was the headquarters for the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows Lodge. The upstairs hall was used as a meeting room for members and social occasions.

(25) 1923 Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall Built as a War Memorial to Yass men and women who served in World War I, the building contains a shrine with marble tablets, listing the names of Yass residents from all wars.

(26) 1884 Yass Post Office Postal services began in Yass in 1835, however this is the first building specifically built as a Post Office. It was designed by Colonial Architect James Barnet and the clock tower was added in 1888.

(27) 1862 Yass Pharmacy Built as the Yass Dispensary, it is one of the few buildings in Yass to be still used for its original purpose.

(28) 1872 National Australia Bank Built for the Commercial Bank to replace their original premises near the river. It was the first of the grand banks to be built in Yass and the first building to have a slate roof. The stables still stand at the rear of the building.

Turn left and proceed 50m up Meehan St:

(29) 1956 Banjo Paterson Park A bust of Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson stands in the park to commemorate his link with the Yass district. Banjo spent his childhood at Illalong near Binalong and later returned to the district for some years when he purchased "Coodravale" at Wee Jasper. Explore the poetry trail in the park.

Back to Comur St:

(30) 1884 The Golden Boot This store replaced an earlier stone building which was also a boot maker's shop. The building was the premises for the Yass Courier from 1888 until World War I.

(31) 1887 The Australian Store Built by Michael Coen on the site of the old Union Steam Mill, this was the major department store in Yass until its closure in 1986.

(32) 1881 The Australian Hotel The first part of this building was built in 1863 by ex-convict John Martin as the Hibernian Hotel. It was extended and renamed The Australian Hotel in 1881.

At the roundabout turn right into Lead St:

(33) 1892 Yass Town Railway Station The station building is now used as a museum explaining the history of the Yass Tramway. Old rolling stock and the shortest platform in Australia can be seen here.

(34) 1870 Crago's Mill The last remaining flour mill building in Yass replaced one destroyed by the 1870's flood and was part of a large flour milling complex on this site.

Turn left into Adele St and right into Comur St:

(35) 1984 Yass & District Historical Museum There are currently two major exhibitions. One, a complete scale model of 1895 Comur Street and fifty treasures from the last fifty years from the collection.

Look for the blue plaques on the buildings for more detailed information.

Yass Valley

Town Walk



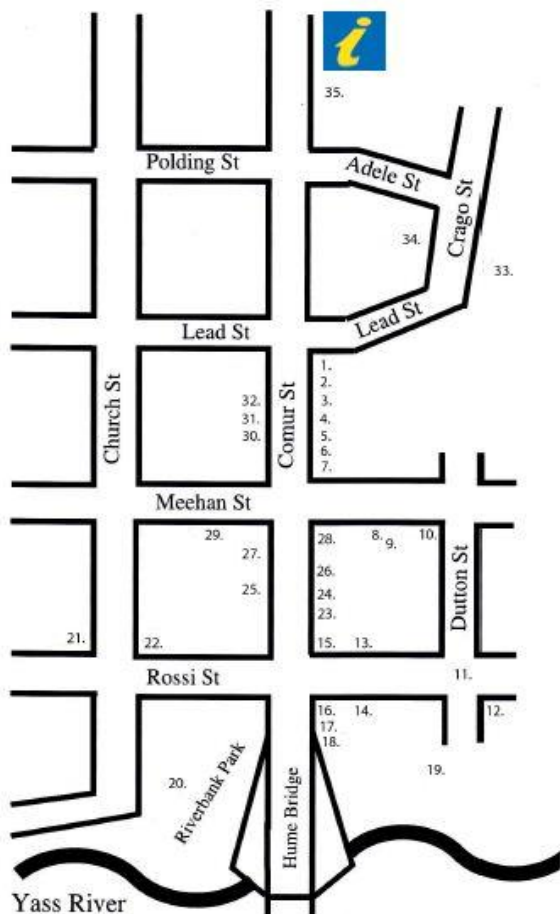
Allow at least one hour to complete the walk. Extra time will be required if visiting museums.

 **Yass Visitor Information Centre**
1300 886 014

259 Comur Street, Yass yassvalley.com.au



Europeans first entered the Yass area in 1821 and settlement started on the south bank of the Yass River following the Hume & Hovell expedition in 1824. The area had a high Aboriginal population and it is believed the name Yass derived from the Aboriginal word “Yharr” meaning “running water”.



(1) **1939 The Liberty Theatre** had seating for over 700 patrons and boasted heating and cooling as well as special assistance for hard of hearing clientele. It closed in 1975 but still houses the Yass Repertory Theatre.

(2) **1869 The Mechanics' Institute** with the two kangaroos either side of the central pediment. It housed a substantial subscription library, large dance hall and was the hub of the town's social life for many years.

(3) **1884 The Bank of NSW** with the crest above the front door was designed by architect Mr. Smedley and built by RM Vaughn. Sold to The Rural Bank in 1934 and closed as the State Bank in 1988.

(4) **1886 The Australian Joint Stock Bank** (Westpac) was built in less than nine months. It was taken over by the Bank of NSW in 1931. Notice the original hitching posts outside the building.

(5) **1907 Triggs Offices** were built for businessman Arthur Bryant Triggs to be the central office for his vast pastoral empire. The building was purchased by the Union Bank (later the ANZ) in 1930.

(6) **1859 Hart's Row** These three shops were built for Henry Hart of the Royal Hotel and used by many different shops over the years. The central premises were used as the Post Office 1874-1880.

(7) **1849 The Royal Hotel** was built for Henry Hart and is the longest continually licensed hotel premises in Yass. The first telegram received in Yass was received in an upstairs room in this building in 1858. There is an fantastic historical display in the foyer.

Turn left at the traffic lights and continue along Meehan Street.

On your right:

(8) **1842 St Augustine's Chapel** Built as the original Catholic Church in Yass and used until 1956. The building was extended in 1857 & 1888 and a tower and spire added.

(9) **1839 Catholic Presbytery** This building, located behind the original church, pre-dates the church and has been the home of the Yass Catholic priests since its construction. It is the second oldest building in Yass.

(10) **1878 Sisters of Mercy Convent and School** built soon after the arrival of the Sisters in 1876. The convent contains its own chapel with exceptional stained glass windows. Mount Carmel College was a boarding school for girls until 1993. The convent, pre-dates the church and has been the home of the Yass catholic priests since its construction. It is the second oldest building in Yass.

(11) **The Yass Tram Line** opened as a light railway to connect to the main Sydney to Melbourne line in 1892. Passenger services ceased in 1958 and the line was closed to all traffic in 1988.

Turn right into Dutton Street. You will notice a railway track down the middle of the road.

Proceed down Dutton Street then turn right into Rossi Street.

Diagonally on the corner is:

(12) **1910 The Goodradigbee Centre** The Goodradigbee Shire Council began in 1906 and this building was used until 1965. The council amalgamated with the Yass Municipal Council in 1980 to form the Yass Shire Council.

Continue along Rossi Street towards the roundabout

in Comur Street. Looking to your right:

(13) **1847 The Globe Inn** was once used as the venue for meetings, balls, theatrical entertainment and the booking offices for the Telegraph Line of American Covered Coaches. It was one of the largest hotels in Yass until c1880 when it became a boarding house. The building next door was built in 1860 as the office and printing works for the Yass Courier and the next premises was built c1839 as a boot maker's shop and used as the post office for a short period.

(14) **1879 The Police Station** was originally used as the gaoler's residence for the fully staffed prison which stood at the rear. It was designed by architect James Barnet.

(15) **1859 The Southern Store** was one of the towns many general stores and traded under many different names.

(16) **1880 Yass Courthouse** This building replaced an earlier 1847 courthouse. Designed by colonial architect James Barnet it was built at a cost of £15,000. The courthouse is still in use.

(17) **1837 The Rose Inn** is believed to be the oldest remaining building in Yass and was the second hotel to be built in the town. It remained a hotel until 1881 and was a doctor's surgery for many years.

(18) **1840 Cobblestone Cottage** was built as a store and Post Office for BC Harrison an early storekeeper. An addition to the building in 1858 housed the Commercial Bank, the first to be opened in Yass. The grassed park area next to the river was once the original business district of town. After the disastrous flood of 1870 no further building took place and the business district moved further up Comur Street.