

Maytown was the main settlement on the Palmer River goldfields in Far North Queensland



1 Old Maytown Road

Commonly called "The Coach Road", this track connected the goldfields to Laura from 1879 onward. The road is now exceedingly rough and should only be attempted by experienced 'off-road' drivers.

2 Old German Bar Townsite

This town was at the crossing place of the North Palmer River. The area was named after a German prospector who first found gold in this area. There was a small settlement here from the late 1870s. Flagstone floors and an oven can still be found in the area.



Originally named Edwardstown, by 1875 the name was officially changed to Maytown

3 Chinese Cemetery

The Chinese Cemetery is on the south bank of the North Palmer River where the Chinese commenced alluvial mining in 1875.

4 Chinese Alluvial Workings

In this area Chinese miners used diversion mining techniques to extract ore from Thompson Gully and Butcher's Creek catchments. Stone pitched gullies, stone dams and diversions still exist.

5 Louisa Mine

This mine produced gold from 1876 to 1893. Lack of water forced the mines closure in 1894.

6 Comet Mine & Mill

The Comet Mill operated from 1885 to 1900. Its boiler, still in its original position, is the largest on the field. The mill also employed berdan pans as well as stamps in extracting gold, and these still lie nearby.

7 Mabel Louise & Perseverance Mill
Remains of the fifteen head Mable Louise Mill dating from 1877 lie on the bank of Butcher's Creek, east of the track. They include a Robey mobile engine and dismantled parts of the stamps.

8 Ida

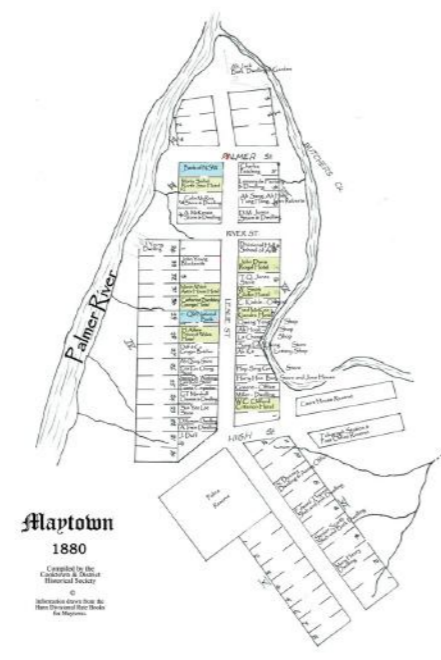
The Ida was one of the most productive mines on the goldfield, yielding 400 kg of gold in the fifteen years to 1890. Among the scatter of mining machinery is a Galloway boiler and a huge flywheel. The town was situated on the flat to the north-west.

In 1878 the goldfields and Maytown had a population of approximately 20,000... it is now a ghost town

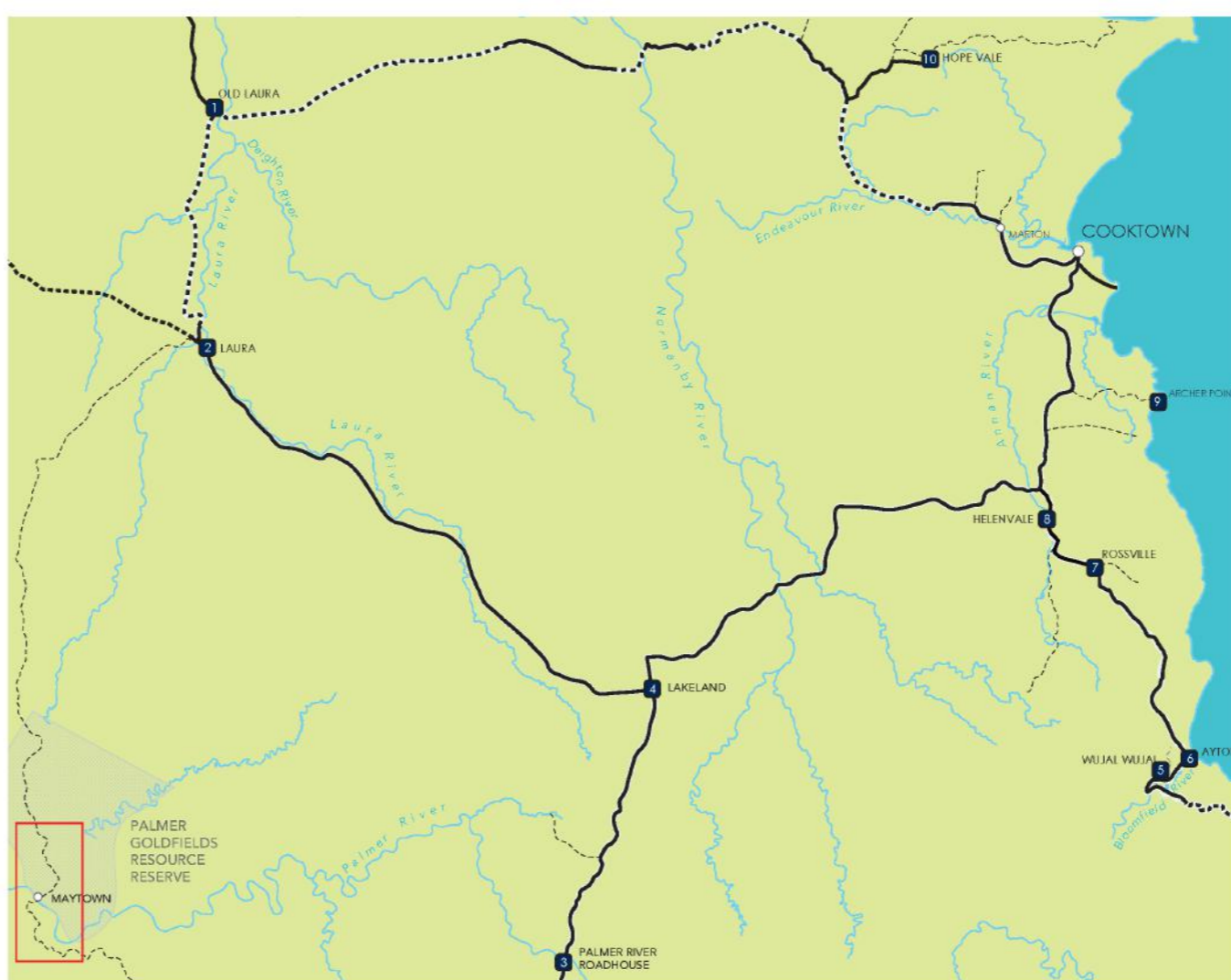


9 Queen of the North Mine & Mill

The Queen of the North Mine and Mill is one of the most compact on the field. Most of the machinery is intact and dominated by three large boilers and a stationary engine. The machine dates from the mid 1870s, the peak period of production for this mine. The mine was the deepest on the field at 82 metres in 1879, its most profitable year.



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10 Alexandra

This mine was active from 1876 to 1880, 1882 and 1897 to 1898.



ALL MINE SHAFTS IN THE AREA ARE DANGEROUS!
Please do not enter fenced off areas. Some mines have an earth 'skin' covering a deep shaft below. There are no supplies available on the Palmer Field. Everyone entering the field MUST be self-sufficient. Travellers are advised to travel in company with other vehicles, and seek advice prior to setting out as to the state of the roads.



OLD LAURA HOMESTEAD

By the late 1880s transport services between Cooktown and surrounding regions included 250 bullock teams and over 200 pack horse teams to carry supplies, mining equipment, and the Royal Mail.

1 Old & New Laura

Old Laura is the original homestead for the Laura cattle property, built by the O'Beirne family in 1879. In 1966 the owners moved their base of operations to what is now the New Laura Ranger Base on Lakefield National Park. The old homestead has been preserved as an example of how pioneers lived and worked.

2 Laura

The township of Laura is the terminus of the old Cooktown to Laura railway which initially was intended to continue on to Maytown. Laura, a construction camp at the time, became a permanent town after the Queensland Government decided not to proceed with the construction. Nearby is renowned the "Split Rock Gallery" of Indigenous rock art paintings.



LAURA

3 Palmer River Roadhouse

Located on the banks of the Palmer River, this roadhouse provides a taste of the area's history, as well as food and fuel.

4 Lakeland

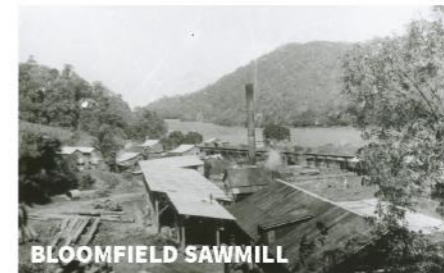
Originally part of Butcher Hill cattle station, this area was purchased in 1968 to grow cereal grain however production was diversified into other crops such as peanuts. Lakeland is now a major producer of bananas, coffee and other products.

5 Wujal Wujal

In 1887 the Lutheran Church established a mission on the Bloomfield River, however it had a short life, closing in 1901. In 1957 the Aboriginal Community now known as Wujal Wujal was established.

6 Ayton / Bloomfield

Ayton, a township on the Bloomfield River, was established in the mid 1880s to cater for the pastoralists in the area and the burgeoning sugar industry. The timber industry was well represented in early Bloomfield with a sawmill operating until after WWII.



BLOOMFIELD SAWMILL

7 Rossville

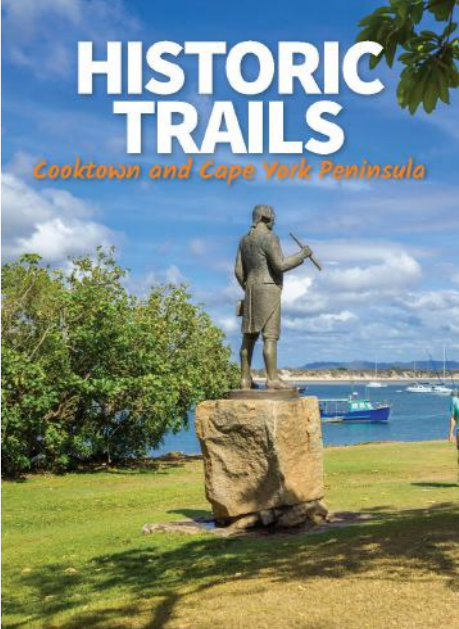
Established in 1885 and serving the Annan River tinfields, Rossville was named after storekeeper and hotel operator Jack Ross (who owned the Lion's Den Hotel). The remains of the numerous tin mines, races and machinery are still hidden in the rainforests around the mountains of this area.



ROSSVILLE

8 Helenvale

Helenvale was the third stop for bullock teams out of Cooktown and is the location of the historic Lion's Den Hotel, first licenced in 1887, and operated by Jack Ross. This iconic pub is a popular stop for locals and visitors alike, and worth a visit just for the signatures that adorn the walls.



9 Archer Point.

During WWII, Archer Point was home not only to a lighthouse, but also a RAN signals unit. When agriculture began at Lakeland, Archer Point became, for a short time, its deep water port.



ARCHER POINT

10 Hope Vale

Hope Vale is an Aboriginal shire north of Cooktown. This community was first established as a mission by the Lutheran Church in 1885 at Cape Bedford. After a number of false starts and a forced relocation during WWII, the Aboriginal people of the area built Hope Vale in 1949.

Cook Shire COUNCIL

Cape York & Cooktown Tropical North Queensland Adventures by nature

This brochure was produced with the assistance of the Cooktown & District Historical Society.

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HISTORIC TRAILS AROUND COOKTOWN



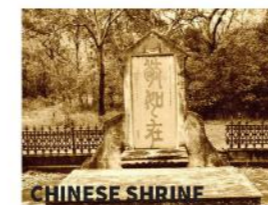
- 19 Rail motor**
At the end of Hogg Street you will find the remains of the last rail motor to use the Cooktown to Laura rail line, and the remains of a wood/coal tender for a B13 steam locomotive.
- 20 The Cemetery and Chinese Shrine**
The oldest grave dates back to 1874 and is a reminder of Cooktown's rich pioneering past. The striking Chinese Shrine represents the important part played by the Chinese in the early days of settlement.



JOSS HOUSE



OLD RAIL MOTOR



CHINESE SHRINE

Gold Rush and 19th Century Chinese 1770

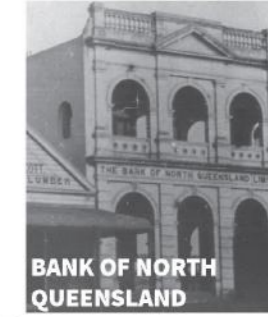
- 21 Old Hospital**
Cooktown's first hospital was located in Hope Street however the original building was moved to May Street and beautifully restored. It now serves as a place of worship.
- 22 The "Top Pub"**
Officially named the Cooktown Hotel, this was the original site of the White Horse Inn, which also commenced trading in 1874.
- 23 West Coast Hotel**
Dating to 1874, this pub has seen many changes including the loss of its second storey in Cyclone Ita in 2014.
- 24 James Cook Museum**
Housed in a magnificent former convent, James Cook Museum explores Cook's 1770 visit and the rich stories of the region including the Palmer River gold rush, Indigenous culture, maritime and social history. See Endeavour's enormous anchor and one of the ship's original cannons, both rescued from the sea at Endeavour Reef in 1969.
- 25 Fire Station**
As now, the original fire station was located on top of this hill. This allowed the hand drawn fire appliance to be pulled to a fire anywhere in town.
- 26 Queensland National Bank**
Replacing a single story wooden building, this remained a bank until 2000. In the 1930s the Bank of New South Wales acquired the building selling it eventually at public auction.
- 27 Seagren's**
Built by the Seagren family as a furniture showroom and factory. Piers Seagren was a manufacturer of fine furniture renowned throughout the north in his time. The building has recently been used as a restaurant and an accommodation facility.
- 28 The Bank of North Queensland**
Built in 1891, it operated only for a short time, closing its doors in 1908. Like Seagren's building next door, it has had a variety of uses over the years, including a supermarket, a motel and a real-estate office. Now known as the Ferrari Estate building.
- 29 RSL Sub Branch**
The RSL Sub Branch is the first storey of one of Cooktown's early hostels, showing how small many of the original 50 hotels really were. Decapitated in the 1949 'blow', it was not rebuilt save from putting a roof on what was left.
- 30 Jackey-Jackey**
Named after an Indigenous Australian from Kennedy's expedition in 1848. Owned by J. Newman, this building was used as a hardware shop called the London Emporium. Later it was used as a gun shop, operated by Newman's son-in-law.
- 31 Galvanised Iron House**
At the end of Green Street is an example of a building from the 1880s. This house was built by Mr. Pascoe who built the original stone gutters in town.
- 32 The Courthouse**
This is the third courthouse built in Cooktown. This one resembles the first one in many ways. The second, a far larger one was built behind the current building, and the original reverted to accommodation for the gaoler. The current building was constructed in the 1940s.
- 33 Grassy Hill**
Captain Cook climbed Grassy Hill on the first day he landed to find a way north. A radar station, was operated by the RAAF during WWII.
- 34 Botanic Gardens**
Established in 1878, Cooktown's Botanic Gardens are among the oldest in Australia. Original features include rock pools and stone-pitched walls. The Botanic Gardens also houses 'Solander's Garden' - named for HMB Endeavour botanist Daniel Solander and Nature's PowerHouse gallery which holds an original collection of Sydney Parkinson's botanical prints.



THE OLD HOSPITAL



THE "TOP PUB"



BANK OF NORTH QUEENSLAND



RSL SUB BRANCH



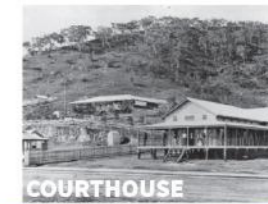
WEST COAST HOTEL



JAMES COOK MUSEUM



JACKEY-JACKEY'S



COURTHOUSE



QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK



SEAGREN'S

1 Powder Magazine
This is possibly the oldest structure still standing in Cooktown. It was built in 1874 by Henry Meldrum. It has recently been restored by the National Trust Australia (QLD).

2 Pilots' Jetty
Built between 1876 and 1889, this is where the Pilot's Jetty once stood.



POWDER MAGAZINE



PILOT'S JETTY

3 The Wharf Area
Of the four wharves that once serviced Cooktown, only the 'Railway Wharf' remains. It has remained in constant use since its construction circa 1883. The remains of the 'international' wharf can be seen further along the foreshore.

4 Chinese Monument
Erected in 2011 as a monument to the contribution of Chinese migrants in developing Australia's north.

5 The Cairn
The place where the Endeavour was careened is today marked by the tall stone cairn at the water's edge.

6 Milbi Wall
The story (Milbi) wall tells the Indigenous perspective of the first known contact with Europeans in 1770.

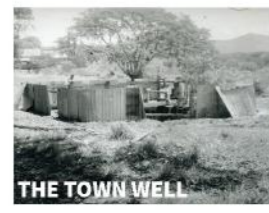
7 James Cook Statue
Erected to celebrate the bicentenary, this sculpture by Stanley Hammond MBE marks the site of the Re-enactment of Cook's Landing, which takes place every year.

8 James Cook Monument
The monument commemorates Cook's landing on 17 June 1770.

9 The Cooktown Cannon
This field piece was sent to Cooktown as a training aid for the Garrison Battery, a militia unit of the Queensland Defence Force.



THE 20 POUND CANNON



THE TOWN WELL

11 The RSL Memorial Club
Built in 1885, it originally served as the Daintree Divisional Hall. 'Divisions' were forerunners to our present shires. In 1919 the Hann and Daintree Divisions were amalgamated to form Cook Shire. In 1949, the Shire Council gifted this building to the Cooktown Sub Branch of the RSSAILA (now RSL).

12 The Post Office
Built in 1889 after the amalgamation of the Post and the Telegraph departments, it has remained the Cooktown Post Office ever since.

13 Cooktown History Centre
Initially built for the Post & Telegraph Department in 1877, within 10 years a new post office was required and this building reverted to staff accommodation. In 1892 the Municipal Council hall and office burnt down and the Council applied to operate out of this building. Cook Shire Council moved in after amalgamation in 1934 and remained there until 2007.



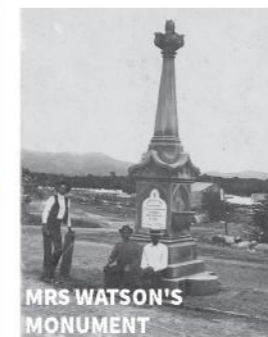
POST OFFICE



OLD COUNCIL CHAMBERS

14 The Boathouse
Home of the Cooktown Re-enactment Association and mural exhibition '48 days - A Shared History'.

15 Mrs Watson's Monument
Built in 1886, this drinking fountain was dedicated to the memory of Mary Beatrice Watson and her baby son Ferrier, who died tragically near Lizard Island.



MRS WATSON'S MONUMENT

16 Reconciliation rocks
It is believed these rocks at the mangroves' edge are the site of the first recorded reconciliation between Indigenous Australians and Europeans.

17 The Old Railway Station
This building was built in 1949 from the remains of the original railway station on Adelaide Street which was demolished by a cyclone that year.

18 Chinese Quarter
The eastern area at the bottom of Walker Street (intersecting Adelaide Street) was the Chinese Quarter of town, containing many small shops, gambling dens, eating houses and accommodation.