



Gulgong Shops

GULGONG TOUR

by Trevor Patrick

The benefit of belonging to Parramatta & District Historical Society is the opportunity to experience tours of historic places, and one of these is Gulgong on the high plain west of the Blue Mountains and only 293 kilometres from Sydney. Gold was discovered in the area and one of the last to be developed as a poor man's diggings, that is, by individuals without substantial capital investment. The narrow and winding streets are a testament to the town which developed around the mine shafts.

Novelist and bush poet Henry Lawson lived



Australian Great Stock Bank

in Gulgong as a child in the early 1870s, while his father sought instant wealth as a miner. A montage of goldrush-era Gulgong street scenes was used as a backdrop to the portrait of Lawson on the first Australian ten dollar note (which was in use from 1966 until replaced by a polymer banknote in November 1993).

You will notice distinctive tiles set in the pavement whilst walking around the town, which tell a story from the gold rush days. The town council commissioned local potter Chester Nealie to make decorative tiles featuring the secret traveller's signs used to communicate 'the lie of the land' to fellow swaggers.



The Greatest Wonder Shop



Cudgegong House



Wyaldra Shire War Memorial

Gulgong is believed to be one of the primary locations in Thomas Alexander Browne's Robbery under Arms. Australia's first novelist of note, Browne was police magistrate in the period 1871-81. He once hosted English author Anthony Trollope, who later recorded his impressions of Australia and New Zealand (1875).

In 1872, Henry Beaufoy Merlin took photographic images, on glass-plate negatives, of many buildings in Gulgong — with owners, tenants and passers-by — and of gold mines and miners, creating a unique record of life in the town and its surroundings, at the time of the gold rushes.

Gulgong Symbol Trail Explained



"A good place for a handout" tile



"I have gone home" tile



More on Parramatta at www.hillstory.com.au
Trevor Patrick Author "In Search of the Pennant Hills" the award-winning book of the three settlements of the Hills District of northern Sydney.

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Dining room at Hambledon Cottage House Museum, Parramatta



The dining table is made of Honduras Mahogany and features a Georgian style gate-legged, drop-leaf with turned tulip legs. Two of the four legs are hinged to support the flaps, making it more comfortable to sit at than the traditional gate-leg, having no underframe to get in the way.

The dinner wagon is decorative as well as functional holding side dishes and cutlery.

Made in Sydney, the Ironstone meat dish presented the main meal in a pleasant and appetising way. To keep food hot when being transported from Kitchen to the Dinner Table, a EPNS silver electroplated on nickel dish cover shielded the meat and vegetables.

The tea caddy (*left*) is made from Bird's Eye Maple veneer with Rosewood veneer inner edges and secondary Pine timber. Mother-of-pearl escutcheon surrounds the key hole.

Tea making was the first social activity women controlled in the Victorian household. They held the key to it and permitted servants to measure out the tea leaves.

The mantle clock in mahogany case with hand painted glass panel of St Paul's Cathedral London was made by Chauncey Jerome of New Haven, Connecticut, in 1840. It is powered by a descending weight giving 24 hours.



John Macarthur's *Hambledon Cottage* HOUSE MUSEUM

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