

# Rylstone Historical Walk

Rylstone is noted for its stone buildings. Not only are the public houses in Louee Street and the Churches made of local sandstone but also the private homes are. This is due to the abundance of stone in the surrounding mountains. Enjoy a walk along the route laid out and view the beauty of the old buildings.

The Rylstone area dates from the 1820's and was originally called Dabee. A request for a village to be called Tongbong was made to Governor Gipps in 1840, however he decided that the name become Rylstone. In 1884 Rylstone was elevated to the status of a town.

## 1. The Police Complex

These buildings date from the end of the last century and shows a strong Federation influence. They consist of the Lockup, the Constable's House, the Court House, the Sergeants Residence and the slab stables at the rear. The buildings are still used as a Police Station and Court House.

## 2. The Post Office

The Post Office and the Telegraph Office were originally separate and dated from the 1850's. They came together in this building in 1881, which includes the residence.

## 3. The Shire Chambers

This was erected in 1913. Previous, the Councillors met in Jackson's rented rooms, on the corner of Louee and Cudgegong Streets.

## 4. The School of Arts & Memorial Hall.

The school of Arts is known as the Small Hall and for many years was the centre for functions. The Memorial Hall next door dated from 1927, was once used as the towns' cinema theatre until patronage diminished. The Hall is now used as a Community Hall for Rylstone.

## 5. Jackson's Corner

This was an important part of the town when it was first formed. Part of the complex was destroyed by fire, but the stone barn; which was originally a saddlery, and Jackson's original house at the rear, escaped the fire and remain intact in their appearance.

## 6. The Globe Hotel & Sample Room.

This was built in 1880 by Mr Holland, a local saddler and his father-in-law Mr Thomas Owen, an ex-policeman. It was extended in 1886 to accommodate the increased business brought by the Railway. The small building next door was a sample room, where commercial travellers displayed their baskets of samples awaiting orders from storekeepers. The site of the beer garden was once a private residence and garden, said to be the showpiece of Louee Street.

## 7. Murdans Rural Store

Cars came to Rylstone in the 1920's. This was Rylstone's first garage. Removing the cars made a great space for dancing, and the sample room was near enough for a supper room. This store was also the venue for the first silent movies before the Cinema operated at the Memorial Hall. The building is now used as a rural supplies store.

## 8. The Carlton Cafe

This building was originally a three storey flour mill. In 1890 the boiler blew up, killing the attendant, Bill Abbot and rocketed into the adjacent residence killing a grandmother, Mrs Purvis, who was at breakfast with her three orphaned granddaughters. Mr Nash then bought the store, who in extending it, created the illusion that the upper storey extends over the whole building, whereas it covers only the northern end.

## 9. The Catholic Church. St. Malachy's (1875)

It replaced an earlier slab church built in the 1850's by Callaghan McCarthy. The construction of the Church was financed by some nineteen (19) families in the district. Additions were made in 1960 with stone from a private chapel on Monivae near Rylstone and was constructed by an Italian stone mason named Zanro.

## 10. The Bridge View Inn

This was built as The Bridge Inn by Goody Hall who came from the Turon. In 1895 it became the Australian Joint Stock Bank and finally the Bank of New South Wales in 1932. It was acquired by the Historical Society in the 1960's and become a Museum and then in 1981 a Restaurant. The building is on the register of the National Estate.

## 11. The Solicitor's Office

This is a semi detached cottage built by Goodwin Hall, along with the similar adjoining building. The

building was used as a garage during the 1920's. The adjoining buildings were once used as a shop and residence by Goodwin Hall's son.

### **12. The Former Dry Goods Store**

This was built by John Hardwick as the Dry Goods Store and operated as such until the 1900's. Then for many years it served as the local Masonic Hall.

### **13. Hedingly**

This was built by Hardwick in various sections from about 1859 and was for many years owned by a local General Practitioner Dr. Howe. His daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Ferguson still reside here. They have done much restoration in keeping with the original design.

### **14. Mrs Dowd's Cottage**

This is one of the very early slab cottages of Rylstone, still standing.

### **15. The Church of England. St James**

This church and Rectory were built in the early 1860's. The Church had splendid stained glass windows. Behind is the original school house.

### **16. The Uniting Church**

This was formally the Wesleyan church serving the Methodist congregation. It was built in 1884 to replace the Zion Chapel. This chapel stood next door to St. Andrew's Church. The Manse, on the corner of Cox and Mudgee Streets, in brick gives evidence of the federation period.

### **17. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

This church was built and opened in 1902 free of debt. This beautiful church is no longer used following the formation of the Uniting Church.