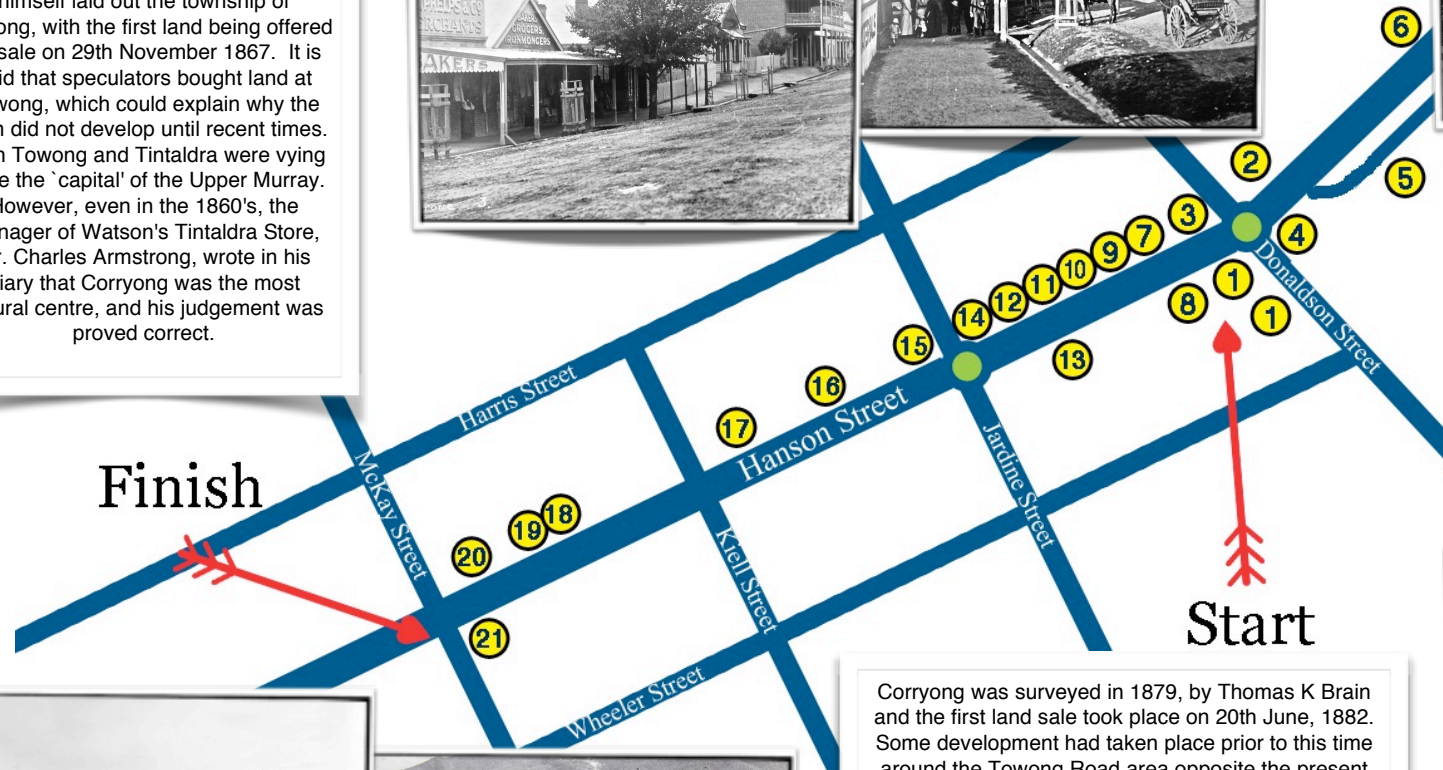
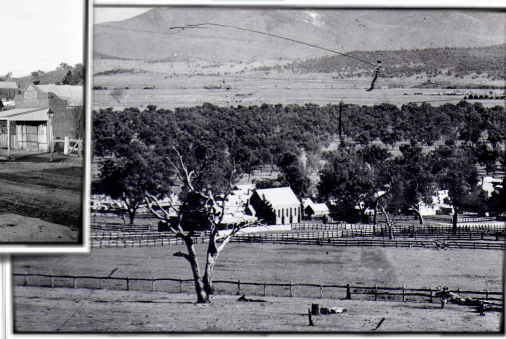
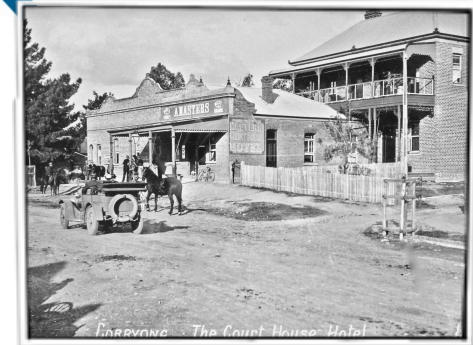
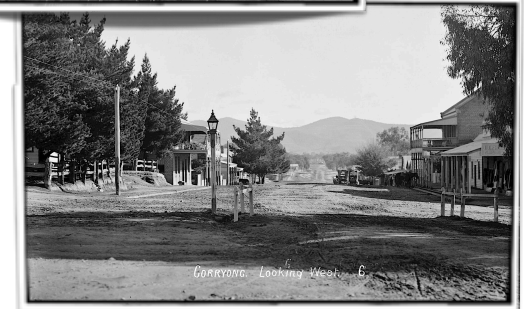
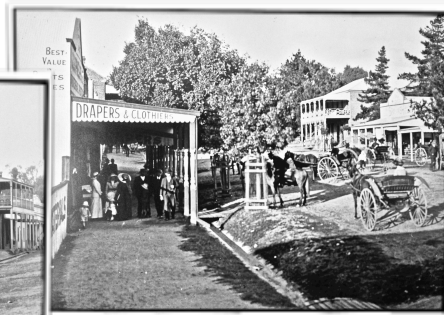


Corryong Two Foot Tour

As early as 1861, John Derbyshire (Acting District Surveyor) sent Arthur F Walker to sub-divide country lands at Tintaldra, Cudgewa, Colac Colac and Wabba. In the same year Derbyshire himself laid out the township of Towong, with the first land being offered for sale on 29th November 1867. It is said that speculators bought land at Towong, which could explain why the town did not develop until recent times. Both Towong and Tintaldra were vying to be the 'capital' of the Upper Murray. However, even in the 1860's, the manager of Watson's Tintaldra Store, Mr. Charles Armstrong, wrote in his diary that Corryong was the most natural centre, and his judgement was proved correct.



Corryong was surveyed in 1879, by Thomas K Brain and the first land sale took place on 20th June, 1882. Some development had taken place prior to this time around the Towong Road area opposite the present Corryong Hotel (1 km towards Towong from the top roundabout), where a Mr. Miller had transferred his store from Koetong by bullock wagon in 1875. When Mr. Miller died the following year, Donaldson (who was managing Watson's Store at Tintaldra) bought the estate and expanded the business. Hanson Street was originally made with tailings from the Mt Elliot goldmine. It was later said to be "paved with gold" but it's all under the bitumen these days.

Most visitors to Corryong comment on the lovely trees lining the main street, especially in autumn when they display their gold colours. These **Liquidambar**s are planted all around the town. A former Shire engineer, John Showers, who came from the Bright area, was responsible for continuing the planting which started at the Museum many years ago.

1 Memorial Hall, Gardens and RSL Hall complex is a tribute to the voluntary efforts of the whole district. The present hall, opened in 1959, is the latest on this site. It was considered to be the largest hall in country Victoria at the time. The first hall was built in 1882 by William Lloyd and James Sharp and then followed larger ones built in 1891 (by William Ordish) and 1914 (Athenaeum Hall). Renovations were made in 1932 and then this was demolished in 1958 to make way for the present hall. The RSL Hall, opened in 1955, was used as a public hall during the rebuilding. The gardens were opened in 1926, with the World War 1 Memorial as their centrepiece. The 'new' hall of 1914 saw the screening of the first silent movies. Around 1929 George Moore introduced 'talkies' to Corryong with his wife providing the music on the pianola. Electricity was connected in 1920, prior to which the hall used acetylene gas lighting. Also of interest in the gardens is the eternal flame cauldron, the Red Cross seat and the statue of Horrie the Wog Dog.

2 Diagonally opposite the Memorial Hall is the **Junior Campus of Corryong College**, which was formerly known as the Corryong Consolidated School. The first school on the site was transferred here in 1877 from Hugh Harris' "Hunters Plain" where it had been established at least 7 years earlier. The new school was built by Mr. William Lloyd and it still stands today, surrounded by new additions.

3 Opposite the Memorial Hall, at the top of Hanson Street, Donaldson decided that his business would be better served if it was nearer the school, so in 1883 he built a new shop opposite the school. This shop known as **Pioneer Corner** which later included the Post Office, was damaged by fire in 1903 and later repaired. Evidence from the Post Office days being the original VR (Victoria Reign) postage slot sign, which now can be found in the Museum.

4 The Commonwealth Bank (formerly State Bank) occupies the fourth corner of this main intersection. Previously this was the site of Chas Jones' blacksmith shop in the 1890's. The bank opened in temporary premises in 1956 and the present building was opened on 1st May 1957 by the then Shire President, Cr. Bill Attree. The bank became famous overnight because in the winter of that year very heavy snow blanketed the town and the bank looked a real picture. In fact the manager took a picture, sent it to Head Office in Melbourne, and they used it on their official Christmas card that year around the world.

5 Playle's old shoppe, is visible beyond the Commonwealth Bank, now as the facade for **Riley's Restaurant**. Arnold Playle built it in 1891 for his watchmaking and jewelry business as well as for his brother Walter's saddlery. In 1894, Mathew's & Denby set up the left side of the building as Corryong's first pharmacy. His residence, which was attached to the building, can now be seen next door as a private house. This building also had the first town clock.

6 Before we start our walk down Hanson Street, look at the trees, which line Towong Road (towards Towong). These were planted as a memorial to those who served in World War 1 and the first tree was planted by Mrs. Allan L. Hamilton Snr. on August 28th, 1918. These unique trees are **Indian Cedars** (Cedrus Deodora) and are native to the western Himalayas.

7 The present **Westpac Bank building** was erected in 1896 by Lukins and Masters as a hotel but could not get a license and so was used as a boarding house with suites for professional people. In 1901, when the Corryong Hotel burnt down, the premises were temporarily licensed while the hotel was rebuilt. In 1916 it became the Bank of New South Wales and during the 1960's was extensively re-modeled, with the upstairs residential area being removed and a new facade added. The original building on this site was the old slab schoolhouse from Hunter's Plain, which was shifted here by Charles Jephcott after the school was shifted in 1877, and used as a saddler's shop.

8 Roger C Brown Pty Ltd was formerly Ordish's Coffee Palace and was built by William Ordish in the 1880's and run by his wife. Coffee Palaces were usually built as Temperance 'Hotels' to save people from drinking alcoholic beverages and the Windsor Hotel in Melbourne was originally such a place. Some Coffee Palaces applied to become licensed when they ran short of the coffee drinking customers!

9 The **ANZ Bank building** was built after 1926 - the year that the old building burnt down. This bank had opened on 27th November, 1888 as the Bank of Australasia and when it was destroyed, all the old records and gold transactions were lost.

10 The Greengrocer (formerly Corryong Stores) was originally a butcher's shop, then a boot store and then a general store. The business was run by Mr. Jack Taylor, who has the distinction of being one of the founders of the Stawell Gift. The present day building was built in 1913 and now houses **"The Greengrocer"** and **"Legends Cafe & Restaurant"**.

11 The building which currently houses the **Supermarket & Hardware** was built in 1886 for Danish migrant Waldemar Dyring. The store changed hands many times and grew to be a large department store, which prospered under the ownership of a C S Hobbs from 1921 and later his son Jack who in 1956 brought the first self-service grocery to Corryong. In the late 1960's it was split up into the Fruit Shop, Jakaleen's and Riteway Supermarket, (although the Fruit Shop has now moved next door). The building has since been refurbished and brought back under the one management.

12 The Craft Shop (formerly Crystal Cafe) was built around 1890 and opened as a wine saloon run by a Miss Wilson. Later as a cafe, it sold hot pies and coffee for sixpence.

13 Old photographs depict the **Court House Hotel** as a single storey building. In fact the hotel started life as Mrs. King's general store and became Corryong's first hotel in 1882 using a license transferred from the Upper Thougla gold diggings. It was called the Court House Hotel because visiting magistrates used the premises to hear court cases. The hotel was re-built by Lukins and Masters and they later also ran it. In 1954 a new front was added and the hotel changed its name to the Indi. In the 1980's the large lounge bar was opened, having previously been a billiard room and three commercial shops. Inside you can still see the old staircase and guests enjoy panoramic views from the upstairs balcony. It has now reverted to its former name of the Court House Hotel.

14 The Post Office, after having been located at different sites around the town, shifted to this site when this building was completed in 1913 and it has remained virtually unaltered to the present day.

15 The Attree Centre was named after Cr Bill Attree, one of the longest serving public figures of the district. It was formerly the site of various blacksmith shops and the old part of the old Newsagency building (now demolished) was moved to this site in 1907 (from across the road where the present Post Office site is) and run as a saddlery employing up to 8 people. The brick portion of the old Newsagency was built in the 1960's during the boom days of the Snowy Mountains Scheme construction. This building was purchased by Council for use as a new library, and later the Tourist Information Centre. This building was demolished in 2012 and rebuilt to become a multi-purpose building in 2013 housing the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival Office and the Tourist Information Centre. Beside the building is a bronze statue of the Man from Snowy River.

16 The Shire Offices building was opened on the 28th of May, 1971 by the Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Rupert Hamer. The Shire Engineer of that time, Mr John Sherring, designed the building. The building has been modified since the Shires were amalgamated to include the town's library.

17 No.80 Hanson Street was, for many years, a doctor's residence. The well-loved Dr Greenham (after whom Greenham Street is named) lived here until the residence and surgery diagonally opposite were completed. That building is now the Baptist Church.

18 No.96 Hanson Street was the Alpine Gateway Guesthouse, which was built in 1912 by Andrew and James Harris, when it was thought the railway line would be extended from Cudgewa to Corryong but it was not until the 1960's that the Shaw family opened it to the travelling public as cheap accommodation. It has ceased operating as an accommodation business.

19 The land on which the **Masonic Lodge** is built, was purchased from Andrew and James Harris and the lodge was opened on the 15th October, 1921. Prior to this date Masonic services were conducted for about 20 years at the Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church. To celebrate the opening a banquet was held with the cost being a princely two shillings and six-pence. The lodge closed in 2009 and is now in private ownership.

20 The red roofed house at **104 Hanson Street** was built in the 1920's as the Shire Engineer's residence. One of the first to occupy it was Mr Farran, whose name is perpetuated in Farran Street and Farran's Lookout on the road to Tintaldra.

21 The end of our walk down Hanson Street is the **'Man from Snowy River' Museum**, which was formerly the Shire Offices. This building was erected in 1926 and handed over to the Historical Society in 1971 when the new shire Offices were completed. The Museum houses an interesting collection of local memorabilia as well as probably the oldest collection of skis in Australia. A Pioneer Cottage (the original Jarvis homestead) has been rebuilt and furnished with period pieces. The Museum is open on a daily basis with hours varying depending on the time of the year - check the Tourist Information Centre for current times. The Museum now houses the famous Simpson War Rug.

To get back to the starting point of this walk may we suggest you walk back via Wheeler Street (parallel to Hanson Street) and see more of the trees that have given this town the reputation of having some of the best autumn trees in Victoria

There are two other points of interest in the town that you may wish to visit. The first is **Playle's Lookout** at the top of Donaldson Street, which gives a panoramic view of the Corryong and Thougla Valleys and the second is the **Corryong Cemetery** (see Town Map), which includes the grave of Jack Riley, recognised as The Man from Snowy River.