A rich vein of history

Self-Guided Historical Tour

KORUMBURRA was surveyed in 1887 and the first land sales in Commercial Street took place early in the following year. By the end of 1888, Antonio Radovick had completed his Korumburra Hotel which became the venue for many of the town’s activities. The opening was cause for a grand celebration, as was the arrival of the railway line in 1891, with its official opening taking place in June 1891.

With the discovery of coal and the arrival of the railway, the town was set to boom. From just a handful of businesses prior to the arrival of the railway, the town now had a connection to the world outside the vast impenetrable forest.

Shepherd’s store was one of the first, set up in a tin shed on the railway line side of the main street, then soon there was an auction room, a butcher and a blacksmith. Settlers were taking up land on the edge of the town, and further afield and they too were able to benefit from the arrival of the railway line.

Some buildings of the time still stand. This brochure will give you a brief overview of some of those, and hopefully will give you a snapshot of earlier times in our town, set in this beautiful area of South Gippsland. You will find much to interest you at Coal Creek Community Park and Museum so please visit, and Korumburra Historical Society has a wonderful collection of photos and documents which record the history of the town, should you wish to discover more of our history. The photos in this brochure are from the collection of Korumburra Historical Society.

Starting the walk from any point you could visit each site in a loop that would bring you back to your starting point.

The Korumburra Historical Society welcomes all visitors who wish to see our extensive collection or to obtain help in looking for information.

Visiting hours: 1.30 – 4.00 pm Tuesdays

Contact: 5655 1932

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9 **The Savings Bank** (5 Radovick Street)  
Built in 1902, an impressive brick building.

10 **Lynton House** (Cnr Commercial Street & Radovick Street)  
The original building was occupied by C.E. Brown a chemist.  
Lynton House was built on the site in 1909 following a disastrous fire.

11 **Site Of Oliver Gilpin's Store** (51 Commercial St., Video Shop)  
Oliver Gilpin established his first store in Mine Road,  
Korumburra in 1895. He soon moved to Commercial Street and in 1921 built a new store at No. 31. Gilpin could lay claim to the first chain stores in Victoria, establishing 94 stores throughout Victoria and Tasmania, selling to Foy & Gibson 1944, which in 1951 became C. J. Coles.

12 **Sutcliffe Building** (19-25 Commercial Street)  
John Sutcliffe was the owner builder of this building which accommodated three shops. The shop on the west end was occupied by F. Weichardt as a Bakery in 1892. W. Henderson was the occupier of the middle shop, while Williams the tailor had his business in the third shop. Now occupied by an accountant, a sport store and a restaurant.

13 **Top Of The Town** (Bridge Street)  
Built by W. Nutall in 1892 as the Temperance Hotel, many businesses have operated from this site.

14 **Former Post Office** (Cnr 5th Gipps. Hwy & Bridge Street)  
Built in Edwardian style by Neil Falconer in 1904. Extensions were carried out in 1948, it operated as the town’s Post Office until 1974.

15 **State School No. 3077** (Mine Road)  
There has been a school on this site since 1895. The original wooden building came from Clunes and was later used as the higher elementary school. The brick building facing Mine Road was built by Neil Falconer in 1912, it was used as a temporary emergency hospital during the 1919 Influenza Epidemic.

16 **Austral Hotel** (Cnr 5th Gipps. Hwy & Bridge Street)  
John Sutcliffe constructed this building in 1894. The photo shows the Hotel, the Bank of Australasia and the former Post Office.

17 **Site Of The Tin Shed School** (36 Bridge Street)  
The first Korumburra school was conducted here in 1890. James Shepherd’s corrugated iron shed was moved from lower Commercial Street and renovated so that it could accommodate school classes. In its former location it had operated as a store and Post Office.

18 **Bank Of Australasia Site** (Bridge Street)  
The original school site, owned by Mrs. Shepherd, was purchased by the bank in 1899. The bank building was sold to Alex Scott & Co in 1971 when the present building was constructed.

19 **Mobile Service Station**  
(Cnr Commercial Street & Bridge Street)  
Thomas Wrench, bootmaker, had a shop on this corner in 1892. The Wrench family operated their shoe and boot business in Korumburra at various sites over the next one hundred years.

20 **Cenotaph** (relocated to Coleman Park in 1970)  
Road development brought about the necessity to move this memorial from its original position. Photo shows Bank of Australasia in background.