The line opened and the first train arrived at Yungaburra railway station on Tuesday 15th March 1910. The Hon. J.G. Appel (Home Secretary) officially opened the first section of the Tolga-Johnstone Line on 31st March 1910.

The railway was pivotal in the development of the region. The ‘Iron Horse’ proved a faster and more reliable means of transport, particularly during the wet season when trains turned to quagmires and pack horses struggled to overcome the difficulties of terrain and weather.

Yungaburra railway station closed 1st July 1964. The station and yards were located on what is now Maud Kehoe Park and Bruce Jones Park where the markets are conducted on the 4th Saturday of each month.

With the line almost completed, it became obvious that as the railway station and buildings were being located to the south of the existing village, it would be advantageous for future development to be located near the station. Mr. Wedderburn sold the remainder of Portion 72 to Arthur Belson, a timber merchant, who subdivided it into town blocks and built amongst other things a grand home for himself called Iron Horse near the station. Mr. Wedderburn sold the remainder to the south of the existing village. It would be located to the south of the existing village, and it would be the traditional home country of the Yidinji Aboriginal clan.

In 1886, the same year it was decided to build a railway line between the coast and the Tablelands, Edward Baird Rankin surveyed land around Lake Eacham and Allumbah Pocket for a Village Homestead Settlement. Allumbah was too similar to Aloomba, a town located near the station. Mr. Wedderburn sold the remainder to the south of the existing village, it would be located to the south of the existing village.

In 1890 John Ignatius Stewart became the first settler, then on April 10, 1891 John Musto Roseblade selected portions totalling 153-acres. A requirement of taking up land was that selectors must clear and cultivate land. Settlement Act. At that time the only access to the region came about because pockets or clearings in the range, further west was Ball Pocket (later Kulara). The resultant clearings produced lush grass which provided feed for animals traversing the range, and today timber-getters and settlers still live in the area around Yungaburra.

In 1909 the Government reclaimed land for a branch line be constructed from Tolga to the village.

The information contained herein has been compiled to the best of the researcher’s knowledge up to the time of publication.

Yungaburra Visitor Information Centre.
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Visit the Yungaburra website: www.yungaburra.com

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**Yungaburra (originally Allumbah Pocket), takes its name from the language of the Yidinji Aboriginal people. It is said to mean meeting place, a place of enquiring or questioning. Prior to European settlement the area around Yungaburra was inhabited by about 16 different Indigenous groups who met to trade, camp and conduct ceremonies. The traditional home country of the Dulgunwarr clan encompasses land to the north-east of Yungaburra, i.e. the area surrounding Arcadia Dam, Danballa, Tinaroo and Kulara, while the traditional lands of the Ngadju people is in the Millaa Millaa-Danbulla, Tinaroo and Kulara, while the traditional lands of the Ngadju people is in the Millaa Millaa-Danbulla, Tinaroo and Kulara region.

Europeans flocked to the region following discoveries of gold and tin. The timber-getters followed, drawn by the seemingly endless bounty of beautiful and durable timber. Many thousands of men were directly or indirectly involved in the getting, hauling and exporting of Tableland timbers. At one stage there were no fewer than 5000 sawyers at work in the region.

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The railway was pivotal in the development of the Yungaburra region.

A proposal was also made to continue the line towards land being surveyed in the Johnstone River and Eacham districts. The word pocket added to place names in the region came about because pockets or clearings in the rainforest had been created by the fires of the Indigenous people. The resultant clearings produced lush grass which provided feed for animals traversing the track as well as comfortable overnight resting places for travellers. Boar Pocket was near the top of the range, further west was Ball Pocket (later Kulara) and then Allumbah Pocket as it was called until 1899. Purchased in 1900 from George O'Dwyer, the railway station was located to the south of the existing village, it would be selected it in 1899.

In 1890 settlers were moving into the Allumbah Pocket area under the Queensland government Lands Scheme. At that time the only access to the village was via a bush track which turned south-east off Robson's Track. Today, the cemetery occupies the site of the original village.

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Railway Station & Yards – Officially opened 15 March 1910, the railway, prior to the station opened 29th & 30th November 1924.

Williams Lodge* – The site was bought by James Dunstan in 1911 then sold to the Williams family in 1915. It was home to Edward (Ned) Williams, his children. Ned died 1929 and Zilla a year later. His brother Fred with wife Erin and their 5 children moved in and raised Ned and Zilla’s children. During WWII many locally soldiers found hospitality here and in return they added a deck with a spring dance floor.

Post Office* – The first postal service operated out of the railway station, a common practice when mail travelled by train. In 1916 the Williams Bros built a post office behind the hotel fronting Creek. Moved postmistress. In October 1921 the current Post Office was built on land acquired by the Commonwealth and Leonard Craven appointed postmistress. In 1926 the original post office building was moved to (3).

Community Hall* (aka Williams Hall) – Built 1910 and moved from (29) in 1926. It was still in use as a dance hall. The building was used in 1926 as branch manager, a position he held until 1922. The bank purchased the premises in 1921 and provided banking services until 1967 when the building was sold.

Sunshine Cafe/Tivoli Cafe* – 28A Cedar Street – Built 1923, Miss Stella McCloy established it as a cafe. In 1924 Mrs G Fisher took over and around 1930 Mr & Mrs Fred Davies were the proprietors. In 1935 it was known as the Tivoli Cafe and Mr Claude Murphy was the proprietor of both the cafe and picture theatre across the street.

Auctioneer’s Rooms* – 28B Cedar Street – Built 1926, the building (originally the first postal office) was rented to Mr B, Linder a Licensed Auctioneer and Carrier. Now leased to Mr P McCloy who originally leased it from the Williams Bros.

Tailor’s Shop* – 22 Cedar Street – Built c.1925. It became home to the tailor’s handyman, Billy Madfird and his family. His workshop was in a shed behind the butcher’s shop.

Billiard Saloon, Hairdresser & SP Bookmaker* – 34 Cedar Street – Purpose-built in 1926 when planning for the hotel’s extension was underway. This replaced the old post office which was the popular host. He died 2 January 1933. Mrs Kehoe was appointed postmistress. In 1929 the hall was used as a movie theatre. In 1931 it was used for dances, concerts, political rallies and weddings. It was reopened in 1934.

Bank of New South Wales* – 36 Cedar Street – It was the first bank on the Tolga-Johnstone Railway Line. Mr Bill Gayford was in charge when it opened 16 Dec 1913. The purpose-built premises were leased from the Williams Bros. Mr Gayford returned in 1916 as branch manager, a position he held until 1922. The bank purchased the premises in 1921 and provided banking services until 1967 when the building was sold.

“Cedrela”* From Cedrela, Latin for Cedar – 20 Gilles Highway. Built 1912, it was home to Arthur (Archie) Bilton, a local Commission Agent and Timber Merchant. It boasted a lawn tennis court and hosted lavish garden parties. Mr Bilton then sold it to his son-in-law George Duffy. In 1958 it was bought by Mr and Mrs King who operated the local Tivoli Theatre.

Lake Eacham Hotel* – Built 1910 by the Sydneys Brothers (Cost: £2,000) for Estate H S Williams Ltd. Local timbers were used throughout with features of Silky Oak. The main timbers is Queensland Maple. It was completed and trading 5 October 1910. In 1926, on the original site of Williams Hall (29) the hotel was moved to a new site. A lounge room was added. The opening of the Gordonvale-Yungaburra Road substantially increased the tourist trade to the region. Maud Williams later leased it to her brother of William Neil Gillies, an inaugural Councillor of Eacham Shire and from 1926 the hotel was passed on to various premises owned by the Williams family. Residents along the Creek and as far as the township of Kulara (now beneath the waters of Lake Eacham) lived here with her daughter Marion Bedelia Wardle until mid-1930s. [refer (11)].

The bank purchased the premises in 1921 and provided banking services until 1967 when the building was sold.

This self-guided trail is approximately 3km in length and has been designed for walking. It will take up to two hours to complete or you can join in or depart anywhere along the route. It is possible to drive sections of the route along public roads. Please respect the rights of other road users.

Please note sites numbered 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 18 are private residences with no public access.

1. Railway Station & Yards – See sign in Maud Kehoe Park – Officially opened 15 March 1910, the railway, prior to the opening of the Gilles Highway in 1926, fostered the timber and dairying industries and was a lifeline for the settlers. The line closed 1 July 1944.

2. Timber Mill* – Built 1910 by Neville & Oswald Williams then sold in 1916 with Tom Wensley holding majority of shares. He renamed it Eacham Sawmills Ltd. The office fronts Eacham Road and is said to be built of Silly Oak. Cairns Plywoods (Rankine Bros) owned the mill for its last 20 years of operation. In December 1897 fire destroyed the main sawmill shed and in 2008 Cyclone Larry toppled the chimney stack. (Interpretative signs on site).

3. Site of the Estate H.S. Ltd Emporium – Built 1910 and now occupied by an antique store. The store sold clothing, groceries and hardware, ‘everything from a needle to an anchor’.

4. Yungaburra Butchery* – Built by Estate H S Williams Ltd in 1911 as a retail outlet for their abattoir located on the Atherton side of Peterson Creek. It has traded continuously as a butcher retail outlet for their abattoir located on the Atherton side of Peterson Creek and as far as the township of Kulara (now beneath the waters of Lake Eacham). Phyllis Smith lived here with her daughter Marion Bedelia Wardle until mid-1930s. [refer (11)].

5. Garage and showroom – Built c.1922 and operated by Edward (Ned) Williams as Estate H.S. Ltd Motor Department. Eaxes, Ford, Willys, De Soto, Dodge and Studebaker vehicles were sold and serviced here. A petrol bowser stood on the footpath until 1944.

6. Bakery – 14 Eacham Road. Estate H S Williams Ltd built the first bakery premises in 1912. Tom Granger became the village baker. His son, also Tom, purchased the bakery about 1934 and traded here until his death in 1948. The bakery and residence were destroyed by fire that same year when Frederick Hayden was the baker. New premises were built in 1950 and the building served as a bakery until the early 1980s.

7. St. Mark’s Anglican Church (previously St. Mark’s Church of England) – Completed 26 June 1912 and by 28 Oct 1912 the Brotherhood of St. Barnabas (aka The Bush Brotherhood) reported to Synod that regular services were being held. In 1913 the church was consecrated and a bell gable added in 1922.

8. The Galleries – Built c.1923 by Herbert (Bert) Hunter, a commercial traveller for various firms including wine and spirits merchants. He and wife Maryse lived here until about 1937. Later it was the residence of the manager of the local Bank of NSW and became known as ‘The Bank House’.

9. Gilles Cottage* – 4 Oak Street - Built 1910 by David Alexander Gilles. He was a carpenter and the Returning Officer for the first election of the Eucham Shire Council held on 7 February 1911. The cottage was the official place for lodgement of nominations. David Gilles was the eldest brother of William Neil Gilles, an inaugural Councillor of Eacham Shire Council and later the Member for Eacham in Queensland Parliament (1912-1915).

10. St. Patrick’s Catholic Church* (previously Our Lady of Consolation) – Completed 1914. Fr. Patrick Bernard Doyle (born Ireland 1874) served the Yungaburra community 1913-1924. The church was renamed in his honour and the bell-tower dedicated to him. John Joseph (Jack) Kehoe, the first stationmaster of Yungaburra and Marion Maud (Maud) Williams of the Lake Eacham Hotel were the first couple married here 29 April 1914. The church features the Williams family’s coat of arms. The organ donated by the Williams family in 1917.

11. “Allambie” – 7 Mulgrave Road – Built c.1914 by the Williams family for their eldest daughter, Frances Amelia (Mildie) Wardle (see Williams) following the death of her husband Arthur Henry Wardle in Brisbane in 1912. Mildie lived here with her daughter Marion Bedelia Wardle until mid-1930s. [refer (14) re tank].

12. Golf Club House & Course, 1 Mulgrave Rd – Club formed 18 February 1924 and officially opened 26th & 30th November 1924. The clubhouse was located near the first hole of the 9 hole course which ran beside Peterson Creek and as far as the township of Kulara (now beneath the waters of Lake Tinaroo). Following the club’s disbandment, the clubhouse became home to local school teacher Michael Freaney and his family [refer (13)].

13. Freaney’s Pool – Named for Michael Freaney, a local school teacher who in the 1940s, along with other parents, created the pool and taught local children to swim. (Refer brochure Peterson Creek Walking Track).

14. Williams Weir, waterwheel & turbine (Refer brochure Peterson Creek Walking Track) – Louis Richard (Dick) Bass installed the Pet-Bumbah turbine in 1932. Water was pumped to a building at (11) then piped to various premises owned by the Williams family. Residents along the pipeline also benefitted. The 1922 restoration work at the site was done by Frank Bass, (son of Dick Bass) with the help of the Peterson Creek Landcare volunteers.

15. Police Station* – 6 Cedar Street – Yungaburra’s first permanent policeman, Constable Alex Pike first operated out of rented premises. In August 1913 a stable and fed room was built for his troop horse, ‘Bench’. In 1914 (costing £724.10s) E.L. Greening built a lockup which is now located at the local fire station. In 1929, £1070 was approved to build a police station. In 1938 the residence-cum-police station was altered and a side verandah added.

16. Court House* – 10 Cedar Street – In 1922 the original Allambah School building (built 1906) was moved here to serve as the Court House & Petty Sessions Office. Office space was also provided for the Diary Inspector, underlining the importance of dairying to the area. Unforded by Cyclone Larry in 2008, it now serves as the police station.

17. Old Kulara*, 12 Cedar St – Built in 184799 Mr Alf Davis with materials from a W.W.I Army Hospital at Rocky Creek near Tolga. The property is still owned by his descendants.