

Historic Yungaburra

Yungaburra, the "Gateway to the Tablelands", was originally called Allumbah Pocket. It was established in the early 1880s as an overnight stopping place for miners and settlers who came from the coast on their way to the tin and gold fields further west. Allumbah is the Aboriginal name for "Red Cedar".

In 1886 the land around Allumbah Pocket and Lake Eacham was surveyed for group settlement. The Allumbah Village Settlement Scheme was declared open in 1890. John Ignatious Stewart was granted a selection at Allumbah and became the first permanent settler in 1891.

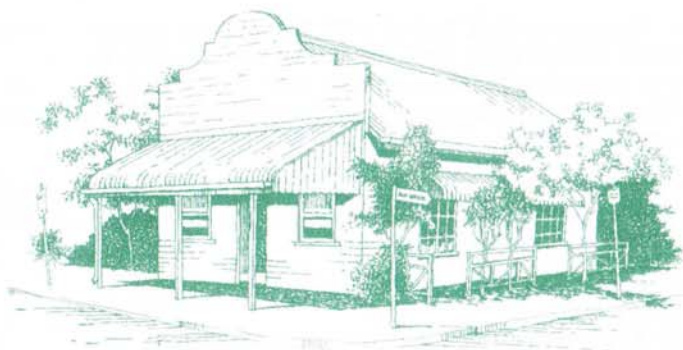
On April 10, 1891 John Musto Roseblade settled on an 153 acre selection, part of which is where Yungaburra now stands. In 1903 Roseblade built Allumbah's first sawn timber house which was removed in 1908 to make way for the impending railway.

In 1898 Henry Sydney Williams bought land at Allumbah. Over the next few years he and his family built a general store, butcher shop, bakery and shanty pub where St. Patrick's Catholic Church is now located.

Henry died in a tragic accident in 1905. Soon thereafter his family set up the H.S. Williams Estate. This allowed expansion of the family's business interests and strengthened Yungaburra's economy.

In 1906 the Queensland government decided that the 1890 Village Land Settlement Scheme was unsuccessful. Each selector of a 40 acre block of farm land had been entitled to a , acre block in the township area. The idea was to encourage the selectors to live together as a community away from their work place.

The , acre allotments were never taken up because the early selectors found that pests and vermin robbed them of their crops and it was necessary to live on their farmland.



As a result, the Queensland government implemented the Closer Settlement Act. This prompted a wave of new settlers to the Allumbah Pocket District.

On March 15, 1910 the first train steamed into the village with Jack Kehoe as stationmaster. The railway link from Tolga provided transport as well as an impetus for the burgeoning timber industry and the growing number of dairy and crop farmers in the district.

On November 9, 1910, at the request of the Railway Department, the Queensland Governor-in-Council changed the town's name from "Alumbah" to "Yungaburra". This was done in order to avoid confusion with the town of Aloomba near Gordonvale.

To many of the local indigenous people, "Yungaburra" means "Meeting Place". The word also means "enquiring" or "questioning".

The township of Yungaburra has existed largely unchanged since 1910. Many of the buildings in the heart of the village remain in their original splendour. Yungaburra has the highest proportion of heritage listed buildings outside of regional centres in Queensland.



Visit the Yungaburra Website:
www.yungaburra.com



*The Historic Heart of
Yungaburra Village
is listed by the
National Trust of Queensland*



Old Town Loop

- Lake Eacham Hotel.** Built in 1910 by the Williams family to meet local needs and serve the travellers brought from Cairns by rail. The hotel features silky oak and Queensland maple timbers. The lounge, dining room and staircase are still in their original form. The hotel was expanded in 1926.
- Yungaburra Butchery.** Built in 1926 by the Williams family. Here they sold the meat from their slaughterhouse near Peterson Creek.
- Garage and Sales Room.** Built in 1922 by the Williams family. There was a haberdashery near where the take-away arcade now stands.
- The Timber Mill.** Built in 1910. Logs, loaded from a ramp in the railway reserve, were transported to Cairns for export.
- St. Mark's Anglican Church.** Built in 1911 and consecrated in 1913. This little church was run by the Bush Brothers.
- The Gables.** Built around 1912 as the bank manager's residence.
- Gillies Cottage.** Built in 1910 for Mr. David Gillies, the first returning officer for the Eacham Shire Council and the captain of the ambulance brigade.
- Williams House.** Built in 1926 for a family member. It stands on land that was originally known as Allumbah. It eventually fell into disrepair but a series of owners have restored it to its present good state.
- St. Patrick's Catholic Church.** Built in 1913 and run for many years by Augustinian priests. Father Doyle oversaw the church from 1913-1924 and the bell tower is dedicated to him.
- Police House.** Built in 1926. The first policeman's house.
- Court House.** Built in 1911. The first Yungaburra School. It was moved to its present site in 1917 when it became too small to use as a school.
- "Old Kulara".** Part of one of the army hospitals at Rocky Creek near Tolga. It was moved to Yungaburra and rebuilt by the late Mr. Alf Davis, formerly of Kulara. That township is now under the waters of Lake Tinaroo following the construction of the Tinaroo Falls Dam.
- Williams Lodge.** Built by James Dunstan in 1911 and purchased by the Williams family in 1915.
- The Post Office.** Built in 1926-27 in the same style as many of the Tableland Post Offices.

- Community Hall.** Built in 1910. This hall was used for countless dances. It was also the venue for the first meeting of the Eacham Shire Council on February 22, 1911. It was moved from the far side of the hotel to its present site in 1925 and housed the Tivoli Cinema from 1928 to 1969.
- The Stone Wall.** Built at a cost of 75 pounds as "fire insurance", a requirement of the insurance company when the Community Hall was used as a cinema.
- Cafe.** Built in 1928 for Tivoli Cinema patrons.
- Auctioneers Rooms.** Built in 1926 for O. L. Evers.
- Tailor's Shop.** Built in 1925. Later to a private residence and then a T.A.B.
- Billiard Saloon and Hairdressers.** Built in 1926. Behind these buildings were the hotel gardens maintained by Chinese.

- Bank of NSW.** Built in 1912 and remained a bank until 1965. Staff lodgings were located at the rear.
- Cedrella.** Built in 1912 and named after a native timber. This home was built by the mill manager, Charles Belson, and was once the social hub of town where people played lawn tennis and attended lavish garden parties.
- CWA (Country Women's Association).** Built in 1938 on railway reserve land.
- Methodist Church.** Built in 1927. It later became Yungaburra's Uniting Church. It was sold in 1997 and converted for commercial use.

Wildlife Walks



A haven for wildlife and a great spot for a picnic. Platypus, tree kangaroos, wallabies and a variety of birds and other wildlife are regularly observed. Do the walks separately, or do the total walk of approximately 5km.

- Centre of town to Platypus Platform (A).
- From the Platypus Platform (A) walk under the bridge and along Peterson Creek. Go back over the creek at the crossing and walk to Allumbah Pocket (B).
- Follow the signposted track from Allumbah Pocket (B) to Frawleys Pool and through to the railway cutting. Continue down Stewarts Gully Parkway on the old railway line track to the peninsula which offers excellent views of Lake Tinaroo. Return to Yungaburra past the Pioneers Cemetery and Mulgrave Road (C).
- From the Platypus Platform (A) walk to the Curtain Fig Tree (D), 20 minutes.

