

CONDOBOLIN HERITAGE

SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR



Condobolin & District Historical Society Inc.

MUSEUM

Former Lachlan Shire Hall

**Proudly supplied by the Condobolin Historical Society and the
Lachlan Shire Council**

1 **Imperial Hotel - 64 Bathurst Street.**

The site of Condobolin's first hotel built in 1860 by Bryan McNamara and named the Condobolin Hotel. Name changed to Imperial hotel in 1910. Present hotel built in 1927 after fire totally destroyed the old timber hotel in February 1927. Upstairs balcony removed early 1960s.

By 1892 there were 10 hotels. The Royal Hotel established by David Tasker in 1876, operates today at 75 Bathurst Street. See plaques at the entrance of Tasker Place, 77 Bathurst Street.

2 **Chamen & Co (IGA Store) - 60 Bathurst Street.**

Condobolin's second store - made of bark slabs - was operating on this site in 1862 and owned by Murray Shultz & Co., followed by H. Alex Richards, then taken over by Thomas Watson from 1890 to 1940, A. Musto from 1940 to 1944 when the Chamen family, current owners of today, purchased the business.

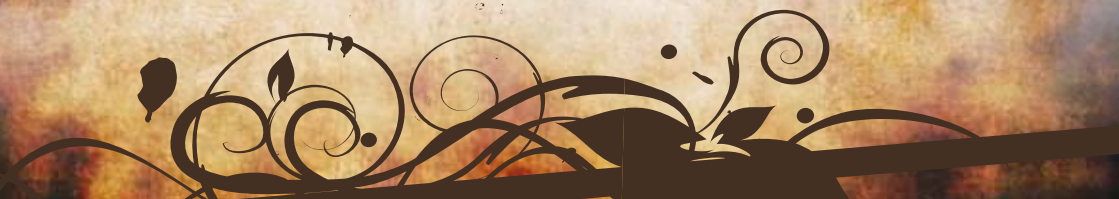


3 **National Australian Bank and Residence - 51 Bathurst Street.**

The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney first opened in 1888 on a portion of the present site of Chamen and Co's store and remained there until the present premises were erected in 1908 on past site of the School of Arts building. In 1983 the bank merged with the National Bank of Australia. The bank and residence sold to a private owner in 1999, then was purchased by Lachlan Shire Council in 2008.

4 **Grand Central Hall (Renown Theatre) - Cnr of Bathurst and McDonnell Streets.**

The hall was built for Alf Bassett at a cost of £5000, capable of seating 1000 people. Travelling theatrical entertainment, local drama, musicals, balls, Anzac Day services, movies and the specially built floor was also used for roller skating. Sadly the Renown Theatre became the victim of progress and ceased operating many years ago. A further loss to the town when the building was destroyed by fire January 7th 2012.



5 All Saints Anglican Church - *Northern end of Grand Central Hall (Renown Theatre) site.*

The church is Condobolin's oldest and first brick building, completed 1879. The church is the first and only building within the Lachlan Shire, to be listed in the State Heritage Register (2008). Outstanding features consist of original leadlight windows, the design of original wooden pews made of local timber and the elaborately carved furniture.

6 Commonwealth Bank - *41 Bathurst Street.*

In 1878 the Government Savings Bank of NSW established an agency at the Condobolin Post Office. A separate branch was built and began operating in 1928. In 1931 GSB merged with the Commonwealth. During the war the bank became involved in Commonwealth bonds, acted as meat agent and clothing rationing authority. Major alterations and extensions were carried out in 1962 and again in 1982. The State Bank amalgamated with the Commonwealth Bank in 2001.

7 Council Chambers - *39 Bathurst Street.*

The first Council Chambers erected on this site in 1895 was an upright sawn slab building. In July 1931 the present Civic Chambers, was officially opened. The current Council Chambers, now located in Molong Street, was officially opened by Sir Roden Cutler, November 5, 1966. April 1st 1977 the Municipality of Condobolin and Lachlan Shire merged to form one body. Building is privately owned and contains a 'Gift Store and Coffee Shop.'

8 Fire Station and Bell Tower- *37 Bathurst Street (Plaque).*

Condobolin Fire Brigade was officially established in 1898 on a voluntary basis under citizen control until the passing of the Fire Brigade Act. W.A.B Stenhouse was the first Captain and when he retired in June 1920, after 22 years of service, he was the oldest fireman in NSW. The first fire station built in 1901, remained until 1940 when it was demolished to erect the present building. A new Fire Station was built at 26 Marsden Street in 1999. (Open days of the old Fire Station will be conducted by the Historical Society.)

9 Historical Museum (Past Shire Council Building) - *35 Bathurst Street.*

The Lachlan Shire Council was established 1906. The first meeting was held in the Court House and then the Municipal Council Chambers until the Shire Hall was erected 1910. Since the amalgamation of the Shire Council and the Municipal Council in 1977, the hall has been used for many purposes until 2009, when Lachlan Shire Council, purchased the building from a private owner, for the Historical Society to make use of as a museum and their headquarters.



10 Previous State Bank - 48 Bathurst Street.

This building was opened as the Rural Bank of NSW, in 1938. One of the major services of this area in time of need, the agency for Government Relief Funds, water, fire and fodder relief were taken over from the State Bank by the Rural Assistance Authority in 1989. Vane Tempest Brothers of Condobolin took over the ownership and franchise in 1998. State Bank next amalgamated with the Commonwealth Bank and the doors closed in 2001 when all operations were transferred across the road.

11 The Lachlander Office and Museum - 46 Bathurst Street.

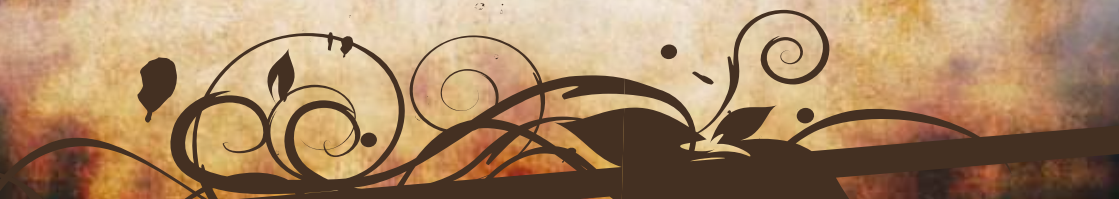
Thomas Shakespeare's first issue of the Lachlander was printed July 1895. The hot metal printing technology used to print those early editions, remained in use until 2004 when the switch was made to computer. Following the death of long term owner Doretta Ryder-Wood in 2002, Vane Tempest Bros., purchased the business. From 1895 to the present day the ownership has remained in local hands. Contact Lachlander Office for tour on Ph: 6895 4010.

12 Wilmil Chambers - 42 Bathurst Street.

Built and owned by the Marlin family in 1904. The rear end of the furniture store contained their undertaking business and morgue. Many of Condobolin's remaining heritage buildings were built by the Marlin family. See plaque in Marlin Park, Corner of Orange and Gordon Streets.

13 The Condobolin Post Office - 33 Bathurst Street.

A Post Office service was first established in Condobolin on July 1st 1858. Mail was transferred by horse back until 1877 and later by coach. The present building was opened September 30th 1886 and has operated as the Post Office continuously since then, with many alterations to the front section of the building. It was privatised in 1998. The changeover to automatic telephones came to Condobolin on November 28th 1971.



14 Court House - 27 Bathurst Street (Plaque).

The first court house built in 1869 served as Court House, Gaol, Church, and Meeting Hall. This was replaced in 1882 with a brick building, facing Denison Street. A new and larger Court House was built in 1900 when alterations and additions were made to the 1882 building. This current Court House faces Bathurst Street as did the original one. The original building was moved to the corner of McDonnell & Bathurst Street and used as the School of Arts building which was destroyed by fire in 1903 and became the site of the Commercial Banking Company, now NAB.



15 Community Centre past Commercial Hotel - *Cnr Bathurst and Denison Streets.*

This site is an important part of Condobolin's history, it marks the beginning of our township when John Devlin opened Condobolin's first store in 1860. It changed hands in 1861 and was converted to a hotel, named the Albion, later renamed the Commercial Hotel by John and Mary Slater in 1876. The present building officially opened on May 23rd 1900. One of the historical features of the hotel is the fact that William H. Ogilvie and his mate Harry (Breaker) Morant, spent considerable time here. Toohey's Brewery, who had held Freehold from 1935, closed the doors in December 1966 and moved the license to Campbelltown. The Centre contains Arts & Crafts work rooms / Craft Shop/ Function rooms available for hire.



16 Morton's Crossing - *Cnr of Denison and Lachlan Streets (Plaque).*

Prior to and during the 1860s, saw the site of Condobolin as an overlanding centre. The ford at the foot of Denison Street was a well known campsite for teamsters and drovers moving stock from the northern and western districts, to the growing city of Melbourne. From this popular campsite grew the town of Condobolin. The local Aboriginals called the place Cundabullen meaning Shallow Crossing.



17 Sacred Park - *Corner of Denison and Molong Street (Plaque).*

Condobolin's first cemetery 1861 – 1878. Of the 55 known burials 35 were children aged 10 years and under, indicating the high mortality rate of children in the early years. This cemetery was later reduced in area when the railway was built on the northern half. With the increase in population and the spread of the town, the current General Cemetery, was established in 1878. General cemetery is at the Cnr of Boona and Maitland Streets. (The Chinese portion of the cemetery is well worth a visit.)

18 Mitchell Park - *Corner of Denison and Molong Streets, opposite Railway Hotel Sir Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor, Explorer, Poet Inventor (Plaque).*

This park is a tribute to Sir Thomas Mitchell, who discovered the site of Condobolin in 1836.

19 First Water Tower - *Corner of McDonnell and Molong Streets.*

Condobolin's water supply became possible in 1898 with the extension of the Railway from Parkes to Condobolin. The unused tower is built of early local red brick, which can be seen in other local heritage buildings.

20 Railway Overbridge - *Completed July 1973.*

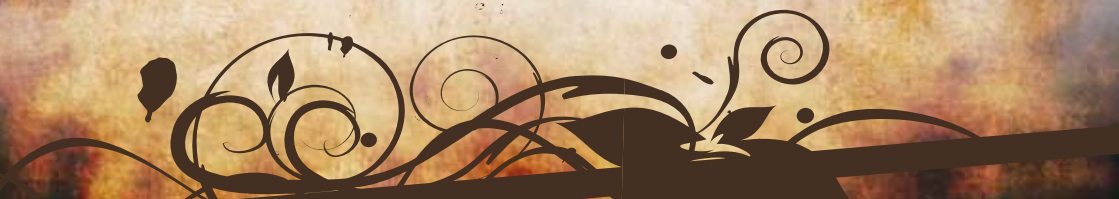
Plans for a new hospital to be built (opened 1975) saw the bridge compulsory, as the level crossing nearer the railway station was considered dangerous and traffic was held up when the gates were down.

21 Railway Museum - *Madline Street.*

As a result Allen Norris' efforts, Condobolin has a very unique Railway Museum, which contains a diverse collection of trikes and railway items. A must for all train and rail enthusiasts. Contact Western Plains Regional Development Inc. William St. 6895 3301 for appointment to view.

22)Reservoir Hill (By car) - *Eastern end of Brady Street.*

Reservoir Hill is a lookout point to view the Condobolin area.



PLAQUE SITES

Smyth Park: Cnr of Lachlan and William Streets

Memorial Park: Cnr of Lachlan and William Streets

Morton's Crossing: Lachlan Street foot of Denison Street

Court House: 27 Bathurst Street

Fire Station (and Time Capsule 2001): 37 Bathurst Streets

Mitchell Park: Cnr Molong and Denison Streets opposite Railway Hotel

Sacred Park: Cnr Molong and Denison Streets

Marlin Park: Cnr Orange and Gordon Streets

Beech Park: 193 Bathurst St

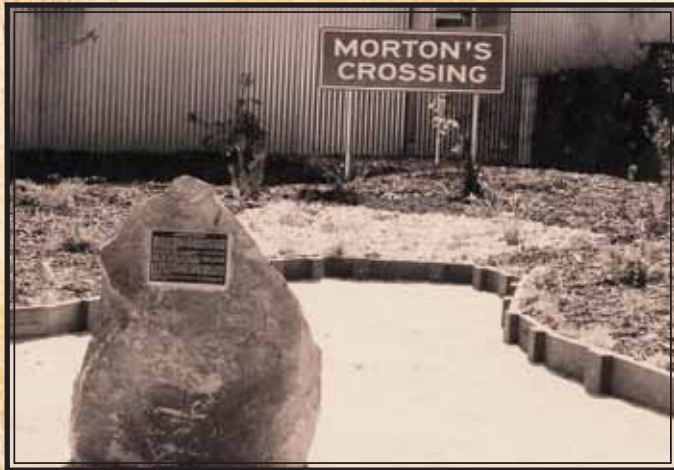
Tasker Place: 77 Bathurst Street

Chinese Portion of Local Cemetery

Rotary Roundabout: Bathurst Street

Bill Hurley Park (named 1988) Condobolin's first Water Tower

Lionel Hunt Memorial Fountain and Time Capsule (named 1988)



CONDOBOLIN MAP

