The district is rich in Aboriginal and European history. A colourful tapestry interweaves the Dreamtime legends of the Gundungurra, Darug and Dharawal people on a backdrop of gorges, ranges and plains with a rural patchwork created by the white settlers who followed the first fleet's famous straying cattle to the Cowpastures.

Picton is one of the earliest European settlements. It was 'discovered' when a number of cattle went missing in the early days of the colony and were found in 1795 by a convict near the Nepean River.

The valuable herd, which had increased in number, were allowed to remain and breed in a sealed-off area stretching from the Nepean to the Bargo River.

This became known as Cowpastures and then Stonequarry until 1841. The name Picton is believed to have been chosen to honour Sir Thomas Picton, an old soldier friend of Governor Brisbane.

In the 1860s the railway system came to Picton and created a building explosion. The area was proclaimed a municipality in 1895, and in 1939 Wollondilly Shire Council (then centred in The Oaks) and Picton Municipality amalgamated to create the Shire that we have today.

Rich Culture

Wollondilly
Shire Council

Working in partnership with the Wollondilly community

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For a copy of our free Wollondilly Map visit the locations below.

Wollondilly Shire Council
Menangle Street, Picton
Open: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm

Wollondilly Library
Menangle Street, Picton
Open: Mon-Fri 9.30am - 5.00pm
Sat 9.00am - 12.00pm

NSW Rail Museum
Barbour Road, Thirlmere
Open: Mon-Fri 10.00am – 4:00pm
Sat & Sun 9.00am – 5.00pm

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VISIT *Wollondilly*
Historic Picton
WALKING TOUR

WOLLONDILLY

is a shire of contrasts featuring 34 villages and towns of which Picton is the largest, within its 2560 square kilometres of forested and agricultural land.

Historic Picton WALKING TOUR Places of Interest

1. The Old Picton Post Office
2. St Marks Church of England
3. The Picton Village Square
4. The Picton Hotel
5. The National Australia Bank
6. Stonequarry Creek Bridge
7. George IV Inn
8. The Old Railway Hotel
9. The Redbank Range Tunnel
10. The Toll House
11. Uniting Church
12. Former Uniting Church, Redbank.
13. Upper Picton Cemetery
14. Victoria Bridge
15. The Old Picton Creamery
16. Picton Railway Station
17. Station Master's Residence
18. The Feather and Fur Factory
19. The Imperial Hotel
20. Upper Menangle Street
21. Webster Street
22. The Viaduct
23. Wendover House
24. Walton's Butcher Shop
25. The Shire Hall
26. Picton Catholic Church
27. John Digger Furniture
28. Picton Courthouse
29. Antill Park

Historic Picton WALKING TOUR

1 The Old Picton Post Office

The Old Picton Post Office was completed in July 1892 and operated as the Post Office until 1994.

2 St Marks Church of England

St. Marks was designed by Edmund Blacket in 1848. The church foundation stone was laid on the 16th of July 1850 and completed in 1857. The historic pioneer's graveyard is of interest to visitors and locals.

3 The Picton Village Square

Constructed for the Australian Bicentennial in 1988, the Village Square provides a pleasant resting spot in the centre of town next to Stonequarry Creek.

4 The Picton Hotel

Erected in 1937 on the site of The Jolly Butcher, which opened in 1844.

5 The National Australia Bank

This bank was previously known as the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited and is a fine example of a period architecture erected in 1885. The Picton and District Historical Society restored the original coachhouse/barn in the rear 1991.

6 Stonequarry Creek Bridge

The first bridge was built in 1834 and washed away in the great floods of 1860 and was replaced by a wooden bridge. The current structure was built in 1899 and widened in 1964.

7 George IV Inn

George Harper of 'Abbotsford' built the George IV Inn in 1839. The sweeping verandas, courtyard and sprawling sandstone structures are typical of this period. A boutique brewery was established on the premises known as Scharer's Little Brewery, with beer brewed in the traditional German method.

8 The Old Railway Hotel

Across the road from the George IV Inn, this building was built in the 1860's as the Railway Hotel and later licensed as the Royal Hotel. It ceased trading as a hotel in 1913 and has been modified to house commercial and residential premises.

9 The Redbank Range Tunnel

Known also as the Mushroom Tunnel, it was built in the 1860s but became redundant in 1919 with the completion of the present railway line. Before WWII a firm used the tunnel to grow mushrooms but during the War, it was taken over by the army for cannon shell storage. After the War, mushrooms were again grown in the tunnel until a fungus grew in the spawn and the business was abandoned. The tunnel is open as a walking destination Monday-Friday 8am-2pm.

10 The Toll House

Was built in 1867 when the railway was extended from Picton to Mittagong. The railway line crossed the road near this point. Besides being the gatekeeper for the railway, the gatekeeper also held the position of toll collector. Travellers on the road had to pay a toll up until the 1870's. (This is now a private residence).

11 Uniting Church

Previously the Presbyterian Church. This neat and compact building was erected in 1886 and opened by the reverend Dill Mackey.

12 Former Uniting Church, Redbank.

Formerly a Wesleyan Chapel this church was opened July 1849. The original building was 26 x 4.9 mtrs. The stone was hewn from Stonequarry Creek. Burials in the church grounds date back to the 1850's. The church became a private residence in 1997.

13 Upper Picton Cemetery

One of the many interesting headstones is that of Antonio Manolis who came to Australia as a convict in 1829 and in 1854, at the age of 47, the first Greek to be naturalised in Australia. He and six other Greek seaman had to be sentenced by the British Government in Malta for piracy as a result of raiding the English brig 'Alceste'.

14 Victoria Bridge

Officially opened in 1897 it is 82.3 mtrs long and is of three spans of 27.4 mtrs. The height to the top of the truss is 31.4 mtrs. It is classified by the National trust of Australia.

15 The Old Picton Creamery

At the turn of the century the district was famous for ice cream and butter. Farmers and Dairymen's Milk Co. built the Old Picton Creamery in 1899.

16 Picton Railway Station

The first train steamed into Picton Station on 1st July 1863. This was only eight years after the first steam train operated in the colony. The original Picton Station had a platform 76.2 mtrs towards the south and 18.3 mtrs towards the north from the station buildings. It was not until 1st March 1867 that the line was extended beyond Picton to Mittagong.

17 Station Master's Residence

Was built in 1877 and stands on a ¼ acre allotment originally sold by the Antills to the Railways Department in 1862 for ten shillings. With the exception of the front porch, this elegant house is as it was over 100 years ago.

18 The Feather and Fur Factory

Also known as the 'Cheese Factory' this building has been classified by the National Trust of Australia. Mr. William Kutnewskey built the building in 1920. He made everything in the feather line, including tippets, boas and feather cockades for the Mounted Lancers. Various industries operated in the building including cheese making and iceworks. The iron gates bear the initials 'HMC' and the date 1886. It is believed the gates probably arrived in Australia as ship's ballast. The gates are protected by a Heritage Council Order.

19 The Imperial Hotel (Closed)

Was first licensed in 1863 and was named 'The Terminus'. For a time it was used as a sanatorium but it reverted to its original intention in 1884. Most of the wrought iron lace-work was established at this time. The hotel has gone through many name changes but has been the Imperial since the 1930s.

20 Upper Menangle Street

Has been listed by the National Trust as 'representing a typical country town street'. Most of the homes were built at the turn of the 20th century and present owners have striven to retain the original quality and purpose of the buildings.

21 Webster Street

Some of the homes here date back to the 1860s and served as workman's homes while the railway was being built.

22 The Viaduct

Was built by a contractor named Ambrose Crawshaw and work commenced in 1862. The viaduct has five 12.2 mtr arches and is 84.1 mtrs long. Its highest point is 23.8 mtrs above the creek bed. Construction took several years and it is now the oldest existing stone archway over water in NSW still in use.

23 Wendover House

At 83 Menangle Street was built during 1880. For a time the Commonwealth Banking Company of Sydney occupied part of the building before the present bank structure was completed.

24 Walton's Butcher Shop

This is a replica of the original shop built in 1894. Known as 'Walton's Butcher Shop' as this business operated from the building for over 70 years.

25 The Shire Hall

Part of this building was originally the Public School (1869-1910) before the present school was opened. It was then decided that the school would be a suitable place for a new Council Chamber, but because of the shortage of funds it wasn't officially opened until 1915. The Council now operates form the building next door.

26 Picton Catholic Church

Formally St. Anthony's, was built in 1901. It is the third Church to have been erected on this site. The first, St. Patrick's, was built in 1847 and demolished in 1947. The site was then used for St. Anthony's School. The second, weatherboard church was erected in the 1880s. A new St. Anthony's Catholic Church has been built in Stratford Road, Tahmoor.

27 John Digger Furniture

This store was built for Mr CH Pickard in 1901 on land then owned by Mr E Sheil. Mr Pickard had been operating a store in Picton since about 1886 and had a chain of stores which operated in Thirlmere, The Oaks, Bargo, Colo Vale, Bowral and Kangaloon.

28 Picton Courthouse

Was built in 1864 partly from sandstone blocks from the original gaol near St. Mark's Anglican Church. Much of the original interior woodwork remains. Windows and ceilings are of interest, as is the Magistrates Chamber.

29 Antill Park

John Macquarie Antill, son of Major H.C. Antill built 'Jarvisfield' in 1865. The property remained in the Antill family until 1967 when the Antill Golf Course was established.