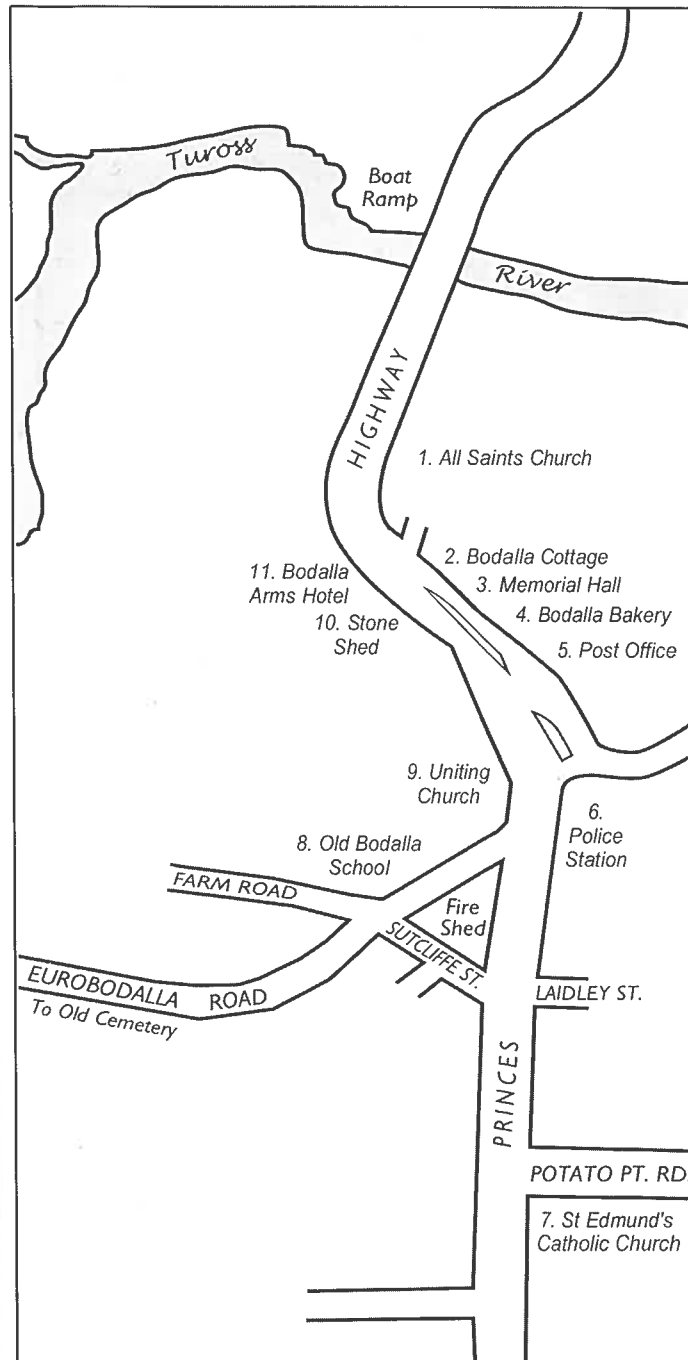


Bodalla is now the centre of a lush dairying area. Originally it was part of the extensive lands along the coast occupied by the Yuin people. The name 'Bodalla' comes from 'Botally', the Aboriginal name for the area and is thought to mean 'near many waters'. Mort acquired the Bodalla Estate from John Hawdon and in time began to farm it as an integrated country estate. He went on to produce the first quality cheese in Australia, produced from milk from several different sources, that rivalled English imports. He was a leading Sydney businessman (think Morts Dock, Mort & Co later Goldsbrough Mort, and a pioneer of refrigerated export of meat), as well as being extremely public spirited.

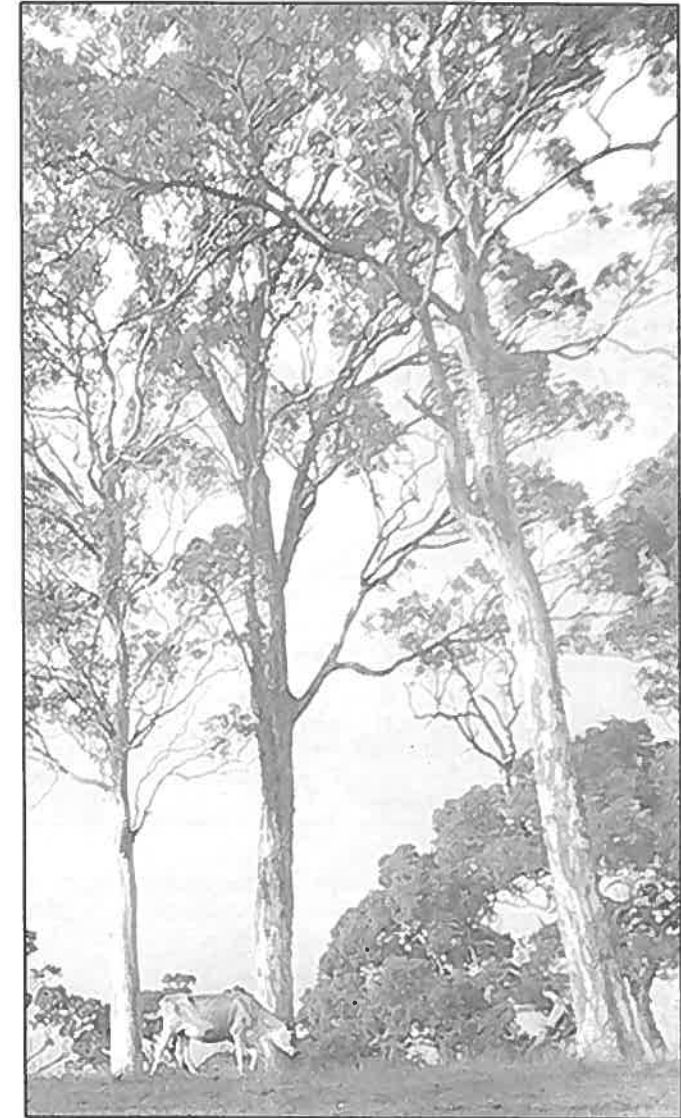
A small 'village' that included a store with post office and a hotel began on the river flats at Wedget in 1856, but frequent flooding in the 1860s and 1870 prompted establishing a more substantial village on the current site in the mid 1870s.



EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL



Bodalla Town Walk



Take a walk back in time through Bodalla - a village which owes its origins to Thomas Sutcliffe Mort, his public spirit and his enterprise.

Start your walk on the northern side of the village at All Saints.



Bodalla Cottage



Bodalla Bakery



Police Station



Okd Bodalla School



Stone Shed



All Saints Church



Bodalla Hall



Post Office



St Edmund's Church



Uniting Church



Bodalla Arms Hotel

1. All Saints Anglican Church

This beautiful church was built by the Mort family as a memorial to Thomas Mort and his first wife Theresa. Mort had chosen the site himself. It was designed by the great 19th century architect Edmund Blackett with his son Cyril supervising construction. It was built in two stages, of locally quarried granite, with the foundation stone laid in 1880. The stained glass windows, pipe organ and reredos of marble mosaic were all imported from England. The windows above the altar were paid for by the local community. The pipe organ is one of only eight in Australia made by 'Father' Willis, the eminent 19th Century English organ builder who built such famous organs as those in the St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Albert Hall. The church cost £13,000.

Note the sundial in the church grounds which was originally located in front of the hotel.

As you walk down to the main part of the village through the gate, look to the left. This was the main road to Moruya and ran on the eastern side of the church from the 1870s through to the mid 1950s.

On the Dairy Shed car park corner, the purpose built post office was opened in 1877 after being temporarily housed in the general store two doors up, built in 1876. The Estate office was in between.

2. Bodalla Cottage

This was the groom's cottage in the 1890s. Tom Minogue was the groom at the village stables behind the hotel opposite. This cottage was sold in 1926 to Roy Byrnes who established a service station there. Dickson was a later owner in the 1940s.

The little side road from Bodalla Cottage to the current Post Office is the original path of the horse drawn tramroad (1884 to about 1888) between Bodalla and the Estate's wharf at North Narooma. The 10-mile tramroad with wooden rails carried the Estate's cheese and bacon to the weekly steamer to Sydney.

3. Memorial Hall

The first hall on the site was the Bodalla Friendly Society's Hall built in the late 1870s. A library was added in the 1890s. It has always been at the heart of the Bodalla community allowing everyone to get together for dances, various social events and meetings. It was replaced with a new hall on a

different alignment in 1957. Note the war memorial nearby, originally located in the Bodalla Arms garden with a machine gun mounted on top. *You pass the old butcher's shop as you move on to the Bakery.*

4. Bodalla Bakery

The Bakery itself was built in the 1870s and although the building is gone, the original oven still remains. It is a traditional wood fired oven built of local rock. Long handled wooden 'geels' are used to withdraw the bread and cakes. The oven, which is 12 feet deep, bakes 200 loaves at a time. It is one of the few wood fire ovens still in existence.

5. Post Office

The site of this post office was surveyed in 1898. It was built the following year to replace the earlier post office on the corner, opposite the Bodalla Arms.

6. Police Station

This building was originally located at Nerrigundah as the Court House and Police station during the gold mining days, but was moved to this site in 1928. Courts were still conducted here until 1971. It is still used as a police station and residence. The original weatherboard lock-up at the back is no longer used.

7. St Edmund's Catholic Church

Laidley and Mary Mort had the prominent nineteenth century architect John Horbury Hunt design this unusual church and presumably the presbytery that was once located behind the church. The Church design is apparently based on the design of a small chapel at the convent where Mary went to school in Belgium. It was built in 1886 and originally had a shingle roof. Laidley, Thomas' eldest son, was an Anglican (converted to Catholicism in 1895) but his wife Mary was a Catholic. It is unique in having wooden shingles on the outside walls.

8. Old Bodalla School

The old Bodalla Public School with combined residence (on the hill off Eurobodalla Road) was built in 1878 on five acres of land given by Mort. It is

weatherboard and nogged inside with stone. At that time the school had eighty-one students. The first public school had been at Comerang. As the school grew, more classrooms were added and the original building was used solely as the principal's residence. Some of the later school buildings are still present down the hill. However, it is unwise for walkers to go on this property due to the deterioration of the school at the moment. *As you stroll up to the Uniting Church, be aware of the impressive spotted gums on the left hand side of the road.*

9. Uniting Church

For years Uniting Church members worshipped in All Saints. On 10 December 1966, the Bodalla Uniting Church was consecrated. This unique little structure was built and financed by local people. Building the church was made possible through the efforts of the Reverend Lester James and a band of devoted helpers, in particular Keith Crapp and Jim Collett.

10. Stone Shed

This was part of the original Bodalla Arms Hotel complex built in 1876/77. It was probably a storage shed adjoining the hotel's stables. During the 1940s, the Commercial Bank used these premises each Friday for the banking needs of Bodalla residents. It has had various other commercial uses since then.

11. Bodalla Arms Hotel

This is the second hotel on this site. The first Bodalla Arms was built in 1877. More accommodation was added between 1886 and 1889. In 1910, the original hotel was demolished and a new building erected to satisfy government regulations.

The architect was Cyril Blacket, son of Edmund who designed All Saints Church. Until about 1930, it was said to be the only hotel on the South Coast the 'well to do' considered worthy staying in. Hosts of the Bodalla Arms Hotel include Emma Hoyle (1877-1889), Pat Lennard and his wife, and William McConkey and his wife. It popularly became known as 'McConkey's, the Killarney of the South'.

To finish your walk, enjoy the spectacular views over the Tuross River valley from the peaceful beer garden. The garden was once part of the village park.