Introduction to Goulburn

The land that Goulburn was settled on was first passed by Hamilton Hume and John Meehan in 1818. Two years later Governor Macquarie declared the countryside fit for settlement and Goulburn was declared the first inland city in NSW, behind Sydney. Many of the buildings remaining from this period are protected, this is a self-guided tour and information. If you would like a guided tour and information, contact the Goulburn Visitor Information Centre.

For more historical tours
Goulburn Visitor Information Centre
Address: 201 Sloane Street, Goulburn
Opening Hours: 9am-5pm weekdays, 10am-4pm weekends and public holidays (Closed Christmas Day)
Postal: Locked Bag 22, Goulburn NSW 2580
Phone: (02) 4823 4922 Fax: (02) 4822 2962
Email: info@goulburnaustralia.com.au
Web: www.goulburnaustralia.com.au

For more historical information
Goulburn Branch Library — Local Studies Section
Corner Bourke & Clifford Streets, Goulburn NSW 2580
Phone: (02) 4823 4453
Email: library@goulburn.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.sl.nsw.gov.au
Openings Hours: Weekdays 9am–4pm, Sat. 10am–5pm, Sun. 2pm–5pm

Goulburn District Family History Society
Phone: Garry White (02) 4821 1156
Email: wollondilly@netspace.net.au

Goulburn Courthouse — Births, Deaths & Marriages
Address: Montague Street, Goulburn NSW 2580
Phone: (02) 4821 9522
Web: www.wl.nsw.gov.au
Openings Hours: Weekdays 9am-4pm

For further information contact:
Goulburn Visitor Information Centre
201 Sloane Street, Goulburn
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The land that Goulburn was settled on was first passed by Hamilton Hume and John Meehan in 1818. Two years later Governor Macquarie declared the countryside fit for settlement under the name ‘Goulburn Plains’. The plans for the township were originally laid out closer to the property of Riversdale but were soon relocated to the current location in 1823. This was due to the previous locations’ low-lying land being prone to flooding.

After being settled the City benefited from the wool industry, a short-lived nearby gold rush, and the development of the rail system. On 14th March 1863 Queen Victoria wrote her last royal letters patent and Goulburn was declared the first inland city in NSW. The land that Goulburn was settled on was first passed by Hamilton Hume and John Meehan in 1818. Two years later Governor Macquarie declared the countryside fit for settlement and Goulburn was declared the first inland city in NSW, behind Sydney. Many of the buildings remaining from this period are protected, this is a self-guided tour and information. If you would like a guided tour and information, contact the Goulburn Visitor Information Centre.

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Historic Homes
Approximately 2.5km — 45 minutes
1. **Mandelson's of Goulburn** was built in 1893; originally, it was the Goulburn Hotel, but it was later renamed after its owner Nathan Mandelson. Mandelson's Hotel was once regarded as the best accommodation outside Sydney. It was in Mandelson's Ballroom where local businesses met to establish the Sydney Railway Co. The building was home to the first Telegraph Station, as well as the first Grammar School. The Mandelson Building was a favorite spot for social gatherings.

2. Built by James Clifford, the Coolarin Hotel has also been known as the Railway and the Southern Railway Hotel (1869) in its time. It is one of the original 73 inns in Goulburn that has maintained much of its old-world charm. The balcony over the footpath is also one of the few original verandahs remaining in the City.

3. The two buildings were of enormous importance to Goulburn. They provided employment to our early residents and a safe, comfortable option for transportation to Sydney. The foundation stone of the Railway Station was laid on 12 June 1868 and the line was officially opened just over a year later. Since then, only minimal alterations have been made to the building.

4. The Alpine Heritage Motel survives as the old accommodation wing of the Goulburn Hotel Café, a building that did not serve alcohol. The Goulburn Hotel Café was built as a large country emporium, for Dimmey's and Harvey Norman. It was refurbished before selling in 1901 and later, and six years after that the building on the present site was built. 

5. The current Goulburn Regional Conservatorium building was built as the Technical College, completed in 1901 at a cost of £6,789 ($11,335 today). From 1913 to 1927 the building was used as Goulburn High School, one of Australia’s first.

6. Continue the tour, turning right at Bowke Street, walking towards Saint Saviour’s Cathedral.

7. Saint Saviour’s Anglican Cathedral is one of the most important buildings in Goulburn. It became one of the first cities located was originally built as the Goulburn Court House, a building of the third and current courthouse was built.

8. Across Auburn Street you will see the Rogers Building (1853), now home to Diamento’s and Harvey Norman. It was built as a large country emporium, for Jones & Co. They later became Furner & Jones, and carried out extensive refurbishment before selling in 1903 to Rogers & Sons.

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10. The Post Office (1880) built by Mr F. Horn, is also designed by James Barnet. The original arch in the centre of the building features the head of Queen Victoria, and was once used by postman and horse to access the yard behind. The 30 metre high Clock Tower was added, by public demand, a year after the building’s completion and was powered by a steam engine. Most recently, the bell in the clock tower had not run for more than 20 years. Fortunately, in 2010, a clock enthusiast passing through inquired why it did not run, he got Goulburn to look at the mechanism and managed to get the chimes to, once again, toll on the hour.

11. Next door is the Town Hall (1887), a design by EJ Manfield built by William Willis for £3,425 (approximately $500,000 today) in 1889. The Classical Revival style building housed the City’s Local Government offices for 99 years and today is used as the community services building.

12. The Hibernian Hotel was one of Goulburn’s original hotels, first licensed on 15 July 1849. In 1854, J.A. Williams took over the building to use it as his dispensary for a short time. It was reopened as the Hibernian Hotel in 1880 and has been in continuous operation since.

13. On the corner of Auburn and Verner Streets is the site of the former Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney building. It was the first bank in Goulburn (1837). After being closed in 1844, along with all country branches, the Bank branch reopened a decade later, and six years later, a new building on the present site was built. It originally had verandahs and balconies but was remodelled in 1919. The granite pillars at the main entrance came from a Marulan quarry.

14. Continue towards the Post Office down to cross the road here, then turn left to use the cross walk at the traffic lights.

15. At the end of the street you will come to the Catholic Church Presbytery and, next door, the Post Office. The current Catholic Church of Saints Peter & Paul (1890) was built around the original brick church, which was then demolished inside and taken out through the doors. It is believed to be the only green sandstone cathedral in the world, with the Diocese Purphory stone being sourced from a local quarry. The cathedral recently received a large restoration grant from the Government for the renovation of the magnificent mosaic window honouring Caroline Chisholm, and the installation of the 10-metre, 9-tone spine in 2014, as per the cathedral's original design. All this, in preparation for the installation of the Murphy Bell which was purchased from Dublin before the cathedral was built in the 1860s.

16. Turn right down Montague Street, walking on the right hand side for a distance.

17. The Colourful façade pays homage to the flamboyant personality and later, and six years after that the building on the present site was built. It originally had verandahs and balconies but was remodelled in 1919. The granite pillars at the main entrance came from a Marulan quarry.

18. Turn right up Verner Street, towards the Old Cathedral.

19. On the corner of Clifford and Auburn Streets a building once stood, owned by Mr T.J. Jacob, a saddler. Mr Jacob installed a life-size statue of a horse on top of his saddlery to increase his sales. After closing down, the building was licensed to Tom Jacob, establishing the White Horse Hotel (1880). Unfortunately, the number of hotels de-licensed as a result of the “reduction” vote in the liquor referendum and was closed a year later. The premises was renovated to be used as a church in the 1930s when it was demolished. The Colonial Mutual Life Building (1933), designed by architects Hennessey & Hennessey, was built in its place. Colonial Mutual Life operated here until the site closed in 1979. The site then enjoyed a stint as a local radio station studio.

20. Old Auburn Street was closed in 1979. The site then enjoyed a stint as a local radio station studio.

21. Use the crosswalk at the traffic lights to cross Auburn Street and walk back in the direction you have just come, towards Information Centre. Use this opportunity to observe the building styles on the opposite side of the street, above the first floor storefront.

22. On the corner of Auburn and Market Street is the site where Knowlman's Department Store once stood. It was opened in 1888 as a branch of a London-based company, with 18-year-old John Knowlman at the helm. Knowlman's Store was the go-to store at the time for imported goods, with direct instructions from the London factories to send out new goods to the Goulburn shop; the store's presence was created. John Knowlman was Mayor from 1893-1895, and continued his business business continued under the direction of his son, John Edward Knowlman. Knowlman's ceased trading in 1982. The building itself remained: leased first to Donohue's Hardware, then to the Goulburn Club, and finally to the Elmslie family, which owned the building. It was named Elmslie Chambers in 1919. The premises were closed in 1979. The site was then enjoyed a stint as a local radio station studio.

23. The AMP Building (1928) was designed by Wright and Appleby Architects. The building is an example of neo-classical Italianate, commercial architecture. Three solid cedar doors and thin Flemish-bond brickwork building an interesting facade. The Goddess of Peace and Plenty adorns the top of the building, and is by WP McIntosh. The Latin inscription means "a certain friend in uncertainty".

24. In 1875 on the corner of Clifford and Auburn Streets a building once stood, owned by Mr T.J. Jacob, a saddler. Mr Jacob installed a life-size statue of a horse on top of his saddlery to increase his sales. After closing down, the building was licensed to Tom Jacob, establishing the White Horse Hotel (1880). Unfortunately, the number of hotels de-licensed as a result of the “reduction” vote in the liquor referendum and was closed a year later. The premises was renovated to be used as a church in the 1930s when it was demolished. The Colonial Mutual Life Building (1933), designed by architects Hennessey & Hennessey, was built in its place. Colonial Mutual Life operated here until the site closed in 1979. The site then enjoyed a stint as a local radio station studio.

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27. Next door is a Victorian terrace townhouse with an attic, built for a local merchant during the 1860s. Neighbouring, is the Goulburn Club* (1848), which was once the Medical Hall. It was here that Dr Waugh was known for his famous baking powder. In 2003 the veranda was to be built on the original plans drawn by EJ Manfield (1904). To the right of the Goulburn Club is a Stone Archway which once led to the Bull & Woodward stores and warehouses at the rear. The memory of the early store keepers is kept alive with their initials B & W carved into the archway.

28. The Goulburn Club is a Stone Archway which once led to the Bull & Woodward stores and warehouses at the rear. The memory of the early store keepers is kept alive with their initials B & W carved into the archway.

29. Use the crosswalk at the middle of Market Street to cross the road into the centre of Belmont Park.

30. Belmore Park was originally the town's Market Square. It was once surrounded by a white picket fence, and here residents could sell their livestock, farm produce and merchandise. The park became a botanic garden, and for 16 years, it had a small zoo with emus, deer, peacocks and kangaroos. The park was named Belmore after Lord and Lady Belmore who planted the oak tree in the centre of the park as a symbol of the railway opening in Goulburn in 1869. *

31. *Individual self-guided tours of Goulburn's Historic: Watering Holes, Rail Heritage and Belmore Park are all available from the Visitor Information Centre.

32. **Bell Tower tours available for groups by arrangement or to individuals on the first Saturday of the month.**