

DRIVING TOUR 1

From the Information Centre, drive south down Binnia Street.

A number of businesses were located south of today's shopping area. On your left was a real estate office, a general store, ANZ bank, soil conservation office, motor garage and town electricity generator, tennis courts, fire station, police station, gaol and residence (c.1880 & now an accountant's office) and Botfield's Garage.

On your right, after the pub, was a café, pool room and clothing shop, bakery, dress shop, garage, bootmaker, butcher shop as well as the pool and School of Arts building.

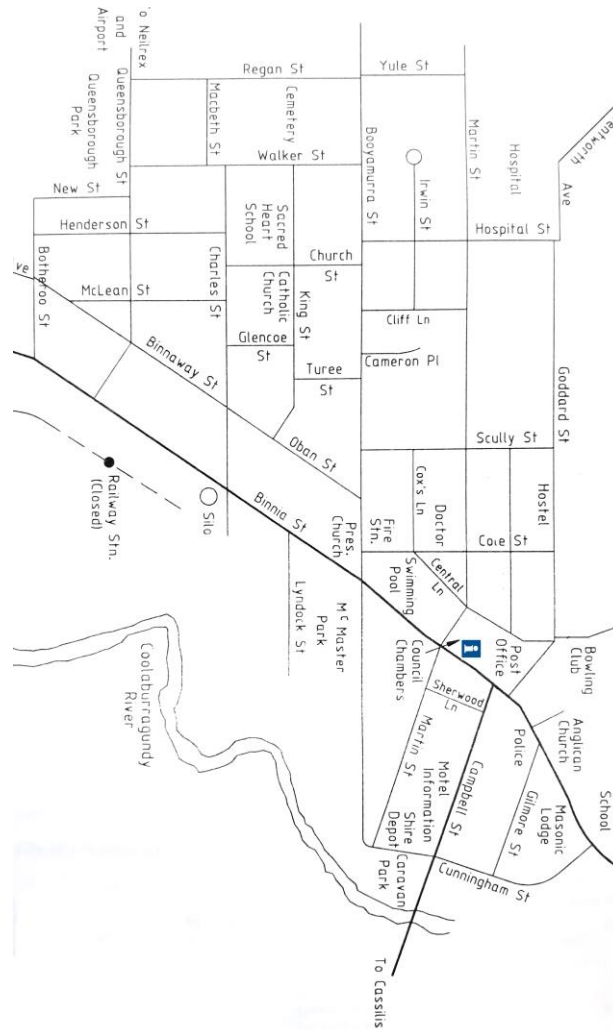
In the next block McMaster Park is on your left, where an old pine tree, descended from the Lone Pine at Gallipoli (sent home as a seed by a soldier) stands sentinel in this spacious park.

Turn right on Charles Street, go past the old convent (now a private residence) built 1921 for Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, an order formed in South Australia by Mary McKillop, and turn right on Walker Street. The cemetery is on your left and if you have the inclination is well worth a visit.

Turn right into King Street and on your right, opposite Turee Street, is a small square red brick building which was the cabinet and coffin maker's shop. The house diagonally opposite is a sandstone house that once had its own tennis court.

Turn left on Oban Street, right on Booyamurra and left on Binnia to return to the main shopping area.

COOLAH TOWN MAP



Coolah Town Tours

Coolah Tourist Information Centre
Binnia Street, Coolah 2843
Ph. 6377 1241
Facebook: /coolahgallery



DRIVING TOUR 2

From the Information Centre, drive south on Binnia Street then turn right into Martin Street and left into Central Lane.

Turn left into Cole Street. At its junction with Booyamurra Street you can see the oldest church in Coolah (1868), the Presbyterian Church, unassuming and simple. In the grounds is Coolah's oldest cemetery containing several headstones of historical interest including Christina McCubbin, wife of the first resident of Coolah, who died 1861 in childbirth. Turn right into Booyamurra Street. Near the junction of Oban and Scully Streets there used to be a trotting ring behind one resident's house.

Turn left into Church Street at the top of the hill. On your left is the new catholic church opened in 1982. On your right is Sacred Heart School (1949), the original Catholic Church (1906) now used as a school building and the convent (1921) which is now a private residence.

Turn left into Charles Street. Jorrocks Park is on your right at the bottom of the street, named after a famous Coolah racehorse. It also features the planet Neptune on the Great Solar Drive. On the other side of Binnia Street is where the railway station (1920) was situated.

Turn left into Binnia Street. The house "Corinne" is an elegant house from the turn of the 20th century, once the residence and surgery of Dr. Blayney.

The Veterinary Surgery also on your left was once a lemonade factory. Other shops were also on this side - a butcher shop, an old town hall that showed silent movies, bootmakers and a haberdashery.

Continue up Binnia Street to return to the main shopping area. You may notice on the wall of the brick building opposite the pub, is an old Robur Tea sign.

WALKING TOUR

The Information Centre/Gallery/Library was the Town Hall (1939) and was used to host dances, balls and a picture theatre.

Coming out of this building, turn slightly left and imagine this block 70 odd years ago - with a garage, fruit shop, bakery, café, accountancy firm, barber, haberdashery, bank, boarding house, boot maker, stock and station agent, butcher, newsagency, hairdresser, Haynes store, post office and pharmacy.

The Haynes store (now a supermarket) was built in 1925 and has burned down twice. The store was installed with flying fox cash carriers that took money and receipts to the girls working in the office upstairs. Apparently, the odd mouse was put in the cylinders to give the girls a fright! The Post Office was built in 1882 and housed the telephone exchange in 1910.

In the next block, Coolah Auto Smash & Mechanical is the site of the old plaster factory and a skin shop was next door.

Continuing to walk north, past the entrance to Bowen Oval and the Sporting Club is the Anglican Church (1882) with its recent 'Octagon' a dual purpose extension for the church and for performing arts. Next is Coolah Central School (1868) which recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. Towards the end of the school grounds was once a maternity hospital and a cordial factory.

Crossing the road, turn right into Cunningham Street, and enjoy a little fresh air before turning right into Campbell Street. The motel on your left is the site of the original cluster of buildings when Coolah began, where James McCubbin built huts, an Inn, blacksmith's forge and post office there in the 1840s.

At the top of the road turn left. On the site of the Davidson Cameron building was a vacant lot used by travelling carnivals to set up their circus tents. A barber shop (approx. opposite the current Pharmacy), also had a boxing ring in the 1950s.

DRIVING TOUR 3

From the Information Centre, drive north on Binnia Street, the Post Office (1882) is on your left as well as Coolah Crafts selling locally made products and the stylish Coolah Garden Café and Pantry that has a lovely outdoor eating area.

Turn left into Goddard St and drive past the sporting club and its 18 hole golf course on your right. In the mid-late 1800s the rise behind the golf course was the site of corroborees when local Kamilaroi and Wiradjuri people would come in from Booyamurra, Butheroe, Mumbedah and Queensborough Stations.

Swanston Park adjoins the golf course, presented to the residents of Coolah by Miss Swanston of Booyamurra Station. It was the site of gymkhanas and pony club events in the past. At the end of the street, turn left into Hospital Street, the district hospital and Multi Purpose Service will be on your right.

Turn right into Martin Street, driving past the Long Tan memorial avenue and plaques and entrance to the hospital. At the top of the town is the town water reservoir.

Turn left into Yule Street, left into Booyamurra and view the Coolah Valley before continuing down the hill. The Presbyterian church and cemetery (1868) is on the right corner of Binnia Street and the School of Arts (now the Preschool) is on your left. McMaster Park is opposite.

Turn left into Binnia Street, passing the town pool and Leighs Auto on your left (as well as a motor garage it was the booking office for Butler Planes in 1954) and Coolah Custom Cars on your right (site of the electricity generator for the town and first fire station).

The Black Stump Inn (c.1926) on your left, is the most recent pub built on this site.