

Wellington NSW
MONTEFIORES HERITAGE DRIVE

WELLINGTON NSW
COUNCIL

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Montefiores lies on the northern side of the Macquarie River, also begin by crossing the (1) Macquarie River Bridge. The first bridge across the Macquarie was built in 1871. Prior to that the river was crossed by ford, or by punt when the river was too high to be forded. This was soon replaced by another bridge, the opening of which was celebrated by a ball on the bridge and boats with fairy lights on the river. The current bridge was opened in December 1991, to replace the previous bridge that was destroyed in a truck accident in January 1989.

The (2) Railway Bridge, to your right as you cross the Macquarie River, came into service connecting to Dubbo in February 1881, to allow trains to continue to Dubbo. It was designed by Sir John Fowler, co-designer of the Forth Bridge in Scotland.



Just across the bridge, the building on the right opposite the turn to Montefiores Street was formerly a hotel, the Stragglers Inn, licensed in 1866. It is now a Brass Bed Restoration shop.



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Visitor Information Centre
Freecall: 1800 621 614

Information and text provided by the Wellington Council Heritage Advisory Committee. Colour photography by George Dewar and Christine Robinson. © Wellington Council 2009.



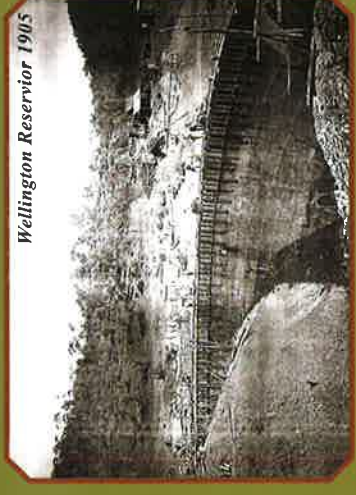
Mount Arthur

Montefiores was established as a private development by Joseph Montefiores at the site of a ford across the Macquarie. It provided inns, stabling yards and stores for bullock team drivers and other travellers. By 1838 Montefiores had been surpassed by the town of Wellington and partially demolished. By 1885 there was one inn, a general store and a few houses. Today it is a suburb of Wellington.

Turn left into Montefiores Street and continue until you reach the (3) Lion of Waterloo Hotel on the left at the junction with Gipps Street. The Lion was built in 1841 and licensed on 19 April 1842. It is the oldest continually licensed hotel in the area and was a passenger stop for Cobb & Co. It was originally built of timber slab construction.

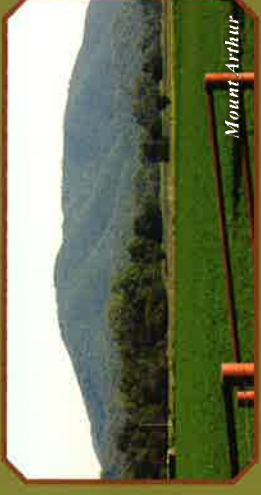


Cross Gipps Street and you will see (4) Teamsters Park on your right, where bullock teams (the main mode of transport for agricultural produce in the days before the railway) camped between 1830 and 1835. There is a plaque commemorating what is believed to be the last pistol duel fought in NSW, in 1834. The participants were Dr Samuel Curtis and B. Sheridan, and it is recorded that there was no loss of life due to the intoxicated state of both men!



Wellington Reservoir 1905

The picnic area lies at the top end of the Old Reservoir (16). The reservoir was built to improve Wellington's water, with work starting in 1898. It was expected that the reservoir would hold 30 million gallons of water and the estimated cost was 9,500 pounds. The reservoir remained Wellington's main source of water until around 1910. Further information can be found on an interpretation panel 300 metres back down Bushrangers Creek Road where the remains of the footings of the old dam wall can be seen. The dam wall was removed in 2002.



Mount Arthur

Continue along Bushrangers Creek Road about 0.7 km to reach a car park on the right, which has toilets and a picnic area. On the opposite side of the road there are two walking tracks leading to Mount Wellesley. Information about these and other walks in Mount Arthur Reserve can be obtained from the Wellington Visitors Information Centre.

In Gipps Street just opposite the Lion there are some other historic buildings, including Ward's Inn, built in 1844, and immediately opposite another former hotel known as the Sportsman's Arms Hotel, licensed in 1865.



Ward's Inn

Turn into Sutton Street, heading back in the direction of the river and the town. Directly at the end, 19 Sutton Street, is a timber slab cottage built about 1870.

(5) Oxley Park, which is almost directly facing you as you come down the hill. This is the junction of the Bell and Macquarie Rivers. The Macquarie River used to flood regularly, but since the opening of Burrendong Dam in 1965 it has been regulated. The Bell River is not regulated and is therefore still liable to flooding. Where the rivers join it is possible to see the separate flows for some distance, particularly after heavy rain when the Bell flows much faster than the Macquarie.



Junction of the Bell and Macquarie Rivers

Follow Herbert Street towards the (6) Duke of Wellington Bridge, which was built in 1990 as a stopgap measure after the Macquarie River Bridge was destroyed. When it was officially opened by the Duke of Wellington, the river was in flood and the bridge itself was under water!

Follow the map back through Wellington and out the Mitchell Highway towards Orange.

Original Settlement Area

South of Wellington, approximately 2.3 kms along the Mitchell Highway, on your left is (7) Maynggu Ganai Historic Site. Maynggu Ganai is a Wiradjuri term meaning "Peoples Land". This is a small part of the site of the Convict Settlement (1823 – 1832) and Aboriginal Mission (1832 – 1844). Some of the original site lies on the opposite side of the Mitchell Highway. When the Mitchell Highway was re-aligned in 1932 the new route bisected the site.



Settlement 1826 – Augustus Earle painting



Original Piece of Place - 1820-80



Original Settlement Well

There are no buildings visible at Maynggu Ganai, although the building layout of the Settlement is known. The site is now under the management of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.



Maynggu Ganai

Continuing south along the Mitchell Highway, on your left is the (8) Pioneer Cemetery. This contains headstones of the earliest settlers, but unfortunately many of the early graves were unmarked and can no longer be distinguished. The earliest burial on record is that of Corporal Sweeney who died in 1825.



Pioneer Cemetery

On the other side of the Mitchell Highway you will see (9) Wellington Cemetery, which is still in use. It was consecrated in 1871. The graves in the Cemetery are arranged according to denominations. There are old headstones of graves belonging to members of Wellington's Chinese community. Further information about the Cemetery and burial records can be obtained from the Oxley Museum in Wellington.

Still heading south, you will reach the turn off to Lake Burrendong and Burrendong Arboretum on the left. You can turn right here, and then right again onto an unpaved road which will take you back to the Cemetery. This is the (10) Old Sydney Road, which is shown on maps as early as 1826 and has been in continual use since then.

Wellington^{NSW}

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Drive time: 1.5 hrs approx.

Distance: 22 km

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

- 1 Macquarie River Bridge
- 2 Railway Bridge
- 3 Lion of Waterloo Hotel
- 4 Teamsters Park
- 5 Oxley Park
- 6 Duke of Wellington Bridge
- 7 Maynggu Ganai Historic Site
- 8 Pioneer Cemetery
- 9 Wellington Cemetery
- 10 Old Sydney Road
- 11 Market Gardens
- 12 Holy Family Catholic Cemetery
- 13 Show Ground
- 14 Caledonian Brick Works
- 15 Mount Arthur Lookout
- 16 The Old Reservoir



The road takes you through an area of (11) Market Gardens along the Bell River. Market gardens were established in Wellington early on by Chinese settlers, some of whose descendants still grow vegetables here. The market gardens have provided employment for many local people, particularly during the Depression.

When you come out at the Cemetery, turn left to return to Wellington. At the second roundabout in Wellington, follow the road signs to Parkes.

Towards Mount Arthur

After crossing the Bell River Bridge you will see Pioneer Park on the right. Turn left towards Parkes along the Renshaw-McGirr Way. Just past the racecourse you will see the (12) Holy Family Catholic Cemetery. Records show that this land had been in use for burials since the 1850s, the earliest headstone being that of Richard Hennessey who died on 11 August 1852. Another headstone marks the grave of Patrick Reidy, the original owner of the land, who died on 3 December 1860. Ten years earlier he had buried an infant son on his land because access to the Pioneer Cemetery was prevented by a flood. That is the first known burial on the site.

The cemetery has many marble and sandstone monuments, some carved with shamrocks and flowers. It contains the graves of many of the earliest priests and nuns from the Wellington parish, as well as most of the early Irish settlers. The cemetery is still in use today.



Holy Family Catholic Cemetery

Turn around and at the "T" junction turn left into Bushrangers Creek Road. The bushrangers were Jacky-Jacky and Redcap, who were captured in the vicinity around 1836 by Sergeant Patrick Sheedy and a constable named Pretty Boy, troopers from Montefiores. In the scuffle, Redcap fired a flintlock pistol at Sheedy, shaving his whiskers and making a groove along his jaw. Not daunted, Sheedy handcuffed Redcap, who was later hanged at Bathurst.

On your left you will pass the (13) Show Ground, which was established on this site in 1910. Prior to that, race meetings were held at four different locations around Wellington at various times, including at a race track at the Wellington Caves.



Show Ground

Just over the rise you can see on your left the remains of one of the (14) Caledonian Brick Works, which produced the rose red bricks that were used in many local buildings.



Caledonian Brick Kiln

Around a slight bend in Bushrangers Creek Road, a road to the right will take you up to the Mount Arthur lookout. On the way to the top lookout there is a stopping place on the right with a wall painted by members of the local Aboriginal Community (15). This provides an excellent view of Wellington Township. Continue to the top of the road for a view of Mount Arthur Reserve, including Mount Wellesley with its telecommunications tower. From the parking area at the top there are several walks which are shown on a sign shortly up the Apex Trail. Return down the hill to Bushrangers Creek Road and turn right.