

History

Between 1890 & 1944, an extensive light railway system existed within these forests and were constructed and operated by Allen Taylor Timbers.

Up to 1914 bullock teams would drag the timber to the rail lines and draught horse's would pull the timber laden carriages 30 km to Mayer's Point.

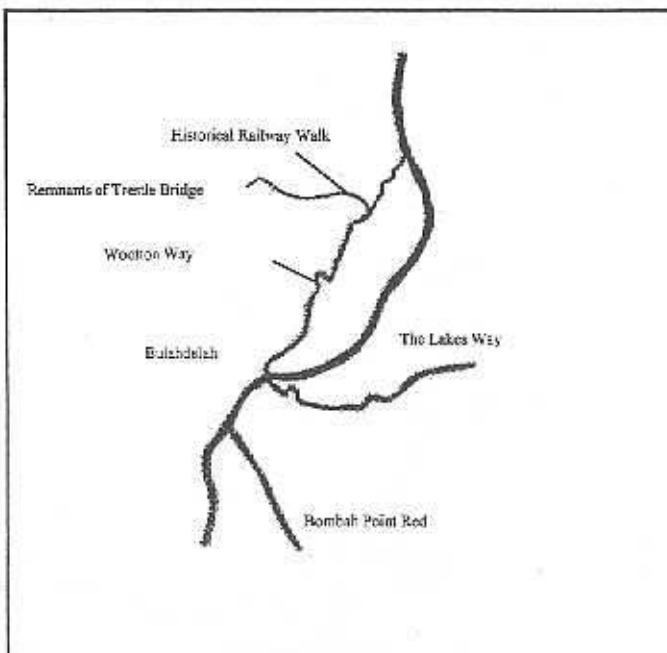
In 1914, Allen Taylor introduced steam driven log haulers and steam driven locomotives. This sped up the process and increased production.

Timber supplied from this operation was used in the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Melbourne Docks as well as supplying the war effort between 1940 & 1944.

Some of the vast supplies of sleepers were used in the construction of the Transcontinental Rail line across the Nullabor Plain. Other sleeper orders were to Hong Kong & China. Timbers cut were Tallow Wood, Turpentine, Grey Gum, Blue Gum, Brush Box and White & Red Mahogany.

The rail line was sourced from disused line from Ireland. This proved unsatisfactory as the rail was too light and would twist and buckle under the weight of the locomotives especially the 'Wootton' which weighed 40 ton. There were 5 locomotives used on the line, the first was the "Aleda", named after Allen Taylor's wife, then came the "Cameron", the "Fanny", the 'Wootton' and finally the "Corrie Pa".

The engine driver's day would start around 5 am and at times would not finish till 9 pm at night. Metre long lengths of wood were used as fuel for the engines and overnight the drivers dampened wood and placed wet bags over the funnel to keep the fire alight through till morning.



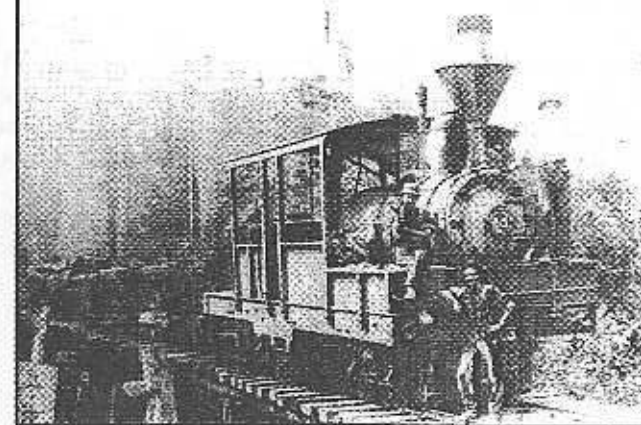
How to get there from Bulahdelah

Travel 4 kms north of Bulahdelah then turn left and travel along the Wootton Way. Drive along this fascinating old stretch of road (known in it's hey day as one of the major "black spots" on the Pacific Highway) and enjoy the peaceful trip through the massive stands of Flooded Gums and vine covered rainforest trees. You'll travel for approximately 20 minutes of uninterrupted peacefulness until you come to the small township of Wootton. Travel to the top of the town (Wattley Hill Road will be on your right) and then look to your left for Squires Road.

Take Squires Road turn off at Wootton and travel west for 4.5 kms to Sam's Camp, which is where you'll find the start of the walk.

To preserve this reminder of Australia's past, and the ecology of the area, please walk on the designated path.

WOOTTON HISTORICAL RAILWAY WALK



LOCATED 20 KMS
NORTH OF
BULAHDELAH
ALONG
WOOTTON WAY
AT
WOOTTON

The Walk

Because the line was constructed to a low enough grade for locomotives, most of the walk is at a gentle 1 in 20 grade. It is classed as a **medium grade walk**

The 6 km track is broken half way by Wang Wauk Forest Way. From here you can decide to walk the next 3 km to the Trestle Bridge Picnic area (best done by road as the path is overgrown) or return from this point and travel by car. An alternative is to take 2 cars to the end of the walk and return to leave 1 at the start.

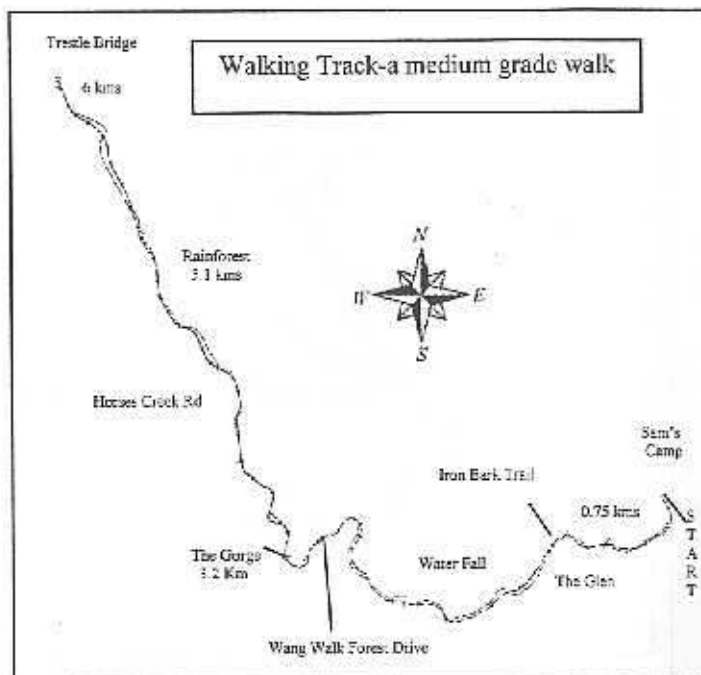
The first half of the walk follows regenerating rainforest that was logged when the line was constructed. The rail line is now protected by a 90 m exclusion zone due to its historical value. No logging will ever take place again within that zone.

The remaining 3 km is overgrown at this stage (June, 05) and is quite impassable at points. It is hoped, in the future, that State Forests will maintain this section, which features deep gullies which in their time were traversed by massive timber trestle bridges. One well known as "The Gorge", a broad sweeping curve that stood 25m above the creek bed and stretched for nearly 300m. A great example of bush ingenuity.

Points of interest to look for along the way are:

- . creek crossings -weathered circular rock pools
- . railway cuttings-dug by hand and horse drawn scoops
- . moss covered sleepers
- . the waterfall
- . spikes and iron bolts
- . lengths of rail line
- . iron fish plates used to join rail together.
- . native foods eg Wombat berries, Dianella etc

In 1995 a joint project between the Department of Education, Employment & Training, State Forests and the Wootton /Coolongolook Progress Association was initiated, whereby 15 long term unemployed people were engaged to construct the walking trail as we see it today. Over a period of 6 months they cleared the vegetation, built bridges, steps, signs etc. Today, the Wootton Historical Railway Walk follows the last 6 kms of this system from Sam's Camp to the Trestle Bridge Picnic Area.



Birds

Grey Shrike Thrush
Laughing kookaburra
Satin Bower bird
Fairy warbler
Rufous fantail
Northern Shrike Tit
Eastern silvereye
Eastern Spinebill
Crimson Rosella
Barn owl
Eastern Yellow Robin
Top Knot pigeon
Wonga pigeon
White cheeked Honey eater
Spotted pardolote
Scarlet Honeyeater
Emerald Dove
White-winged Chough
Magpie lark
Rainbow lorikeet
Crested Shrike Tit
Black faced monarch
Lyre Bird

Pied currawong
Grey fantail
Eastern Whip bird
Lemon-breasted flycatcher
Willie wagtail
Mistletoe bird
Lewins Honeyeater
Rosella
Scaly Breasted lorikeet
Brush turkey
Large White pigeon
Bronze winged pigeon
Leaden flycatcher
New Holland Honeyeater
Peaceful Dove
Brown Quail
Green catbird
Azure Kingfisher
Australian King parrot
Black-faced cuckoo shrike
Pale-yellow Robin
Pheasant coucal
Long-eared bats

Flora list

Flooded Gum	Blue gum
Grey gum	Spotted gum
Bloodwood	Turpentine
Tallow Wood	Brush box
White beech	Iron wood
Coach wood	White mahogany
Red Mahogany	Onion Cedar
Casaurina	Lilli Pilli
Wattle	Bangalow palm
Cabbage tree palm	Walking stick palm
Cedar	Black bean
Orchids	Elkhorns
Satighorns	Birds nest fern
Creek Sandpaper fig	Callicoma
Tree fern	Maiden hair fern
Mistletoe	Native Grape
Smilax	Wombat berry
Psychotria	Apple berry
Ginger	Lamandra
Settlers Flax	Dianella
Red Fruit saw sedge	Native mint
Bolwarra	Hairy pittosporum
Native yam	

Weeds Lantana Crofton weed Mist flower

Fauna List

Brown striped frog	Short braked Echidna
Marsupial mouse	Pademelon
Koala	Diamond Python
Stephen banded Snake	Red-bellied Black Snake
Blue belly Black Snake	Rainforest Tree Snake
Brown Snake	Goanna
Water dragon	Leaf Tailed skink
Land mullet	Gecko
Southern angle headed dragon	dingo

Insects

Native bees	European bees
Wasps	Hornets
Cicadas	Wood funnel web spider
Water spider	Wolf Spider
Millipede	Centipede
Mosquito	Sand flies
Blow flies	March flies
Bush flies	Leeches
Yabby	Rainforest worm
Rainforest Snail	Water dragon
Water nymph	

Feral animals

Feral cat Fox Wild dog