The schooners **Fanny Morris**, and **Ebenezer** were both wrecked on the North Spit. The cutter **Rose** was lost at or near the Tweed. Another cutter, **Jane Scott**, was wrecked either on Cook Island or Fingal Point The schooner, **Comet** struck a sand spit and was driven onto rocks, and the upturned hull of the schooner **Swift** was found washed up on the beach north of the Brunswick River.



Tweed Heads c.1903.

Passengers from a river boat heading upWharf Street to the Tweed Heads Railway Station.

Shipping

Up until 1884 ocean going ships sailed as far up the river as Byangum where they would unload their supplies and reload with their cargo of timber. Before any of the small river ports were established, logs were floated on floodwaters down the river to where they were loaded on sailing ships and carried to Sydney. A regular steam passenger and freight ferry service was established in 1888.



Tweed Heads 1908 –Inner Wall

Greenbank Island

Up until the 1960's Greenbank Island was basically a low sandbank in the Tweed River. It was separated from the main business centre of Tweed Heads by a narrow channel called the Back Channel. In 1947 Tweed Shire Council proposed to purchase the crown land and carry out reclamation work, and in 1967 land for residential purposes was released. Now the area includes a business and residential centre, churches, bowling club, nursing home, Civic Centre, Library and The Tweed Hospital.



Walkway on northern side of Boat Harbour, 2007

References: Information compiled from historical publications available from Tweed Shire Council Libraries

Research and Design by Marguerite Buckley 2007 Produced by North Coast Area Health Service – Health Promotion



Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained herein is correct. In the case of any errors noted please contact 02 6674 9500

TWEED RIVER WALK

IN HISTORIC TWEED

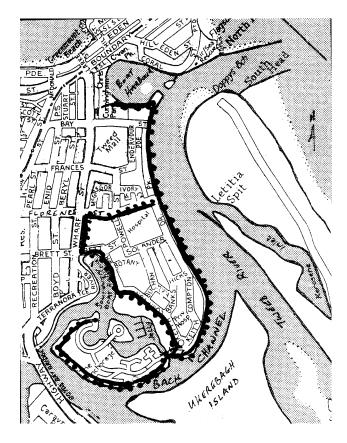


STAY TRIM & KEEP FIT WITH EASY EXERCISE

The series of brochures on Historic Walks of Tweed Shire are for information purposes only. Please consult your doctor or health professional before undertaking any historical walk to ensure the activity is appropriate for you.

TWEED RIVER WALK

GRADE: Moderate **DISTANCE:** 4.9kms (return) Additional 750 metres (optional) walk around the river near The Anchorage.



Route: Follow Tweed River south to The Anchorage. Cut in through marked bush track along the river, and eventually back up past Civic Centre and Southern Cross University; down Florence Street back to starting point.

Points of Interest

- **1.** Chris Cunningham Recreation Park Picnic tables, BBQ area and public toilets.
- **2. Jack Evans Boat Harbour**. Harbour works commenced in 1899 to block off the Back Channel which flowed into the harbour.
- **3.** Advance Australia Fair Statues. Bronze statues of children paying homage to Australian flag and our democratic life.
- **4. The Spur Wall** at the harbour entrance was constructed from the old coal wharf in 1914.
- **5.** Views up river and across to **Fingal Headland** and the river entrance. Sand banks are often visible across the river from this point.
- 6. Ebenezer Park. Named after the ship which was wrecked on the North Spit in July 1859. Some remains of the old piers can be seen in the water across the river. Seats, shade trees and the start of an exercise trail.
- 7. View of Mt. Warning/Wollumbin from the small jetty and across the Back Channel to Ukerebagh Island. This small sand island was the Aboriginal Reserve at Tweed Heads from the early 1900's to the late 1970's.
- 8. Keith Curren Reserve and Estuarine Rainforest. Bush tracks and board-walk.
- **9. Southern Boat Harbour**. Fishing trawlers and cruise boats.
- **10. Southern Cross University.**
- 11. Tweed Shire Council, Civic & Cultural Centre, Library.
- **12.** Statue of "The Golden Nugget" in the grounds of the **Tweed Bowls Club**.
- **13. The Tweed Hospital** first stage opened in December 1972 and now recognised as a teaching hospital.

HISTORY

The river is an important physical feature in the area surrounded by beautiful fertile valleys. The Southern Arm is regarded as the river's main stream with the Rouse River forming the North Arm and the Oxley River forming the Middle Arm.

Small trading vessels first came to the area in the 1840's supplying the cedar-getters with flour, tea, sugar, rum and tobacco.



Around 1900 river boats carried cream cans, passengers and school children between Tweed Heads and Murwillumbah

Wrecks

In the early years of white settlement the river played a major role. The river entrance was much wider than it is today and the bar extremely dangerous. Many vessels were wrecked along the coast or while trying to negotiate the crossing. Some of the more notable wrecks recorded during the 1840s and 50s include the top-sail schooner **Coolangatta**.