

NATURAL HERITAGE ROUTES AROUND MINGOOLA
WELCOME TO MINGOOLA, A PASTORAL BORDER REGION SITUATED ON THE WESTERN SLOPES AT THE BASE OF THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE, HALFWAY BETWEEN TENTERFIELD, NSW AND TEXAS QLD.

Our community is inclusive. It has welcomed people from many different places

The Mole and Severn Rivers, Pike's Creek, Tenterfield Creek and the Dumaresq have been the life blood of the area for tens of thousands of years to the present day. Droughts, floods and bushfires have punctuated our history, developing resilience and a sense of community along the way

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR WAY OF LIFE

MOLE AND SOVEREIGN RED CROSS

MINGOOLA HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INC

MINGOOLA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

MINGOOLA CRAFT GROUP

MINGOOLA FIRE BRIGADE

MINGOOLA PUBLIC SCHOOL P & C

Happy Travelling!



When travelling, check for road closures, and current closures within national/state parks

TAKE CARE: some routes include gravel roads, and gates Drive slowly! There's a lot to be seen

Pack a picnic

Stop for a while and enjoy the environment

You may enter travelling stock routes on foot between sunrise and sunset

Enter only through unlocked gates

There are walking tracks in Torrington State Conservation Area and Sundown National Park

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN STOPPING

Don't park in front of gates or block tracks

If you stop on the road, make sure you have pulled off safely

Don't Park on long grass (fire danger)

Leave gates open or closed as you find them

Exercise caution around stock.

Drive slowly to avoid collisions with wildlife!



ZUP on Anzac Day



Covid Border Riverton



Find US !
Facebook Mingoola Community

First Nations Peoples have lived in the Mingoola district for tens of thousands of years. Tenterfield Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Council proudly protects and supports the cultural, built and natural heritage values of the Mingoola district.

Acknowledgments to Heritage NSW for the grant funding to celebrate the heritage of the Mingoola Area in this project; to Julia Harpham, Janet White, Deborah Wray Clarence Heritage for historical research, the preparation of interpretive signage and brochures, and to innumerable generous people for their time and help with research.

Photos: Julia Harpham, Janet White, Annabelle Hickson, Sascha Estens, Alec Watt, Elizabeth Bennett, Louise Noble.

Cover: Mingoola Map 1927, Aboriginal tools.

Design: Kerry Hardy W: baabaa.net



Proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Tenterfield Shire Council.

MINGOOLA

HERITAGE TRAIL

OUR COMMUNITY
ABORIGINAL, PIONEER, AND
MULTI-CULTURAL HERITAGE



Click the QR code for the online version



TRADITIONAL OWNERS



Manipulated tree



Shelter tree

The Kamilaroi People are known as the traditional owners of the Dumaresq River, as far as the Mingoola area, bordering the lands of the Yukumbul and Ngarabal people up the Mole River, within the Moombahlene Land Council.

Many signs of habitation still exist, from marked trees to meeting places. The island at Black Creek, on the Dumaresq River, was a significant meeting place. Ancient trees in this area were manipulated, their branches shaped while still young, or scarred to mark boundaries, show directions and ceremonial sites or to create shields or coolamons. Scatterings of tools can be found even today, mostly stone axes and scrapers. Grinding stones and clay balls used in Aboriginal fire ovens have also been located. Medicine trees and shrubs were planted including quinine on the Mole River, and Port Jackson figs on the hills. Fish traps still exist in smaller creeks, and at least one birthing place with shelter trees has been located. Several ceremonial bora rings have been identified and also lookouts for scanning the territory. A rich and diverse food supply maintained local First Nations communities.

There were still people living traditionally in the area until 1928.



Scar tree



Fish trap

EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT



Old Mingoola

In 1827, Allan Cunningham crossed the Dumaresq River near its junction with the Mole River, on his return journey from the Darling Downs. The explorer proceeded down the Dumaresq Valley and southwest to Ashford, then west to Bingara where he joined his outward track. This exploration ultimately led to the expansion of European settlements. The New England Tableland was outside the government limits of settlement until 1839.

By 1848, the best land of New England had been occupied. In 1851 squatters were able to get leases which gave them legal tenure, and the boundaries of properties started to be more defined. Most were absentee owners, employing managers and agents to establish the runs. Early in the 1840s, Tenterfield and Clifton stations were established. In 1845, the assessments of Maidenhead, Glen Innes, Glen Lyon, Deepwater and Bonshaw were listed with the Lands Commissioner. Peter Jeffrey bought Mingoola Station for £18,000 in 1874. Mole Station was assessed in 1848 having a registered area of 55,000 acres. These pastoral properties were unfenced, and required shepherds and stockmen, many of whom were Chinese, Aboriginal, or British jackaroos. The remains of lonely shepherds' huts can still be found, along with isolated graves.

The 1861 Robertson Land Act allowed selectors to legally buy and occupy Crown Lands. This caused some conflicts with squatters and forced many Aboriginal people off their traditional lands.

By the early 1900s, more stations were created including Taronga, Mt Pleasant, Roseneath, Moorabinda, Mole Vale and Trenayr. The longest continuing ownership of a property is Taronga owned by the Hynes family, closely followed by the Smiths of Trenayr, then Mole Station and Moorabinda.

EARLY LIFE



Everyday Objects



Kerosene Lamps

Travel was originally on foot, by horseback, dray, or pony cart. A Cobb and Co coach ran either side of the Dumaresq River until the early 1900s. Some roads were surveyed in the 1880s. Captain Thunderbolt "visited" Bonshaw and Top Station in the 1860s.

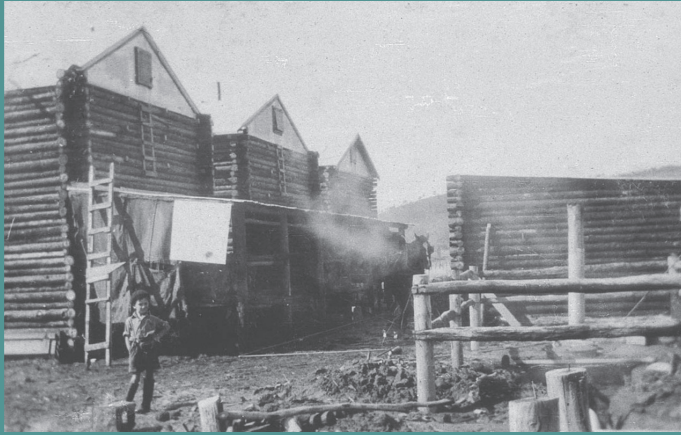
Life without electricity and refrigeration was tough in the early days. Lighting was by oil lamps. Meat was preserved by salting in brine, or hung in a hessian drip cooled meat safe. Vegetable gardens and milking cows were essential. Flour, sugar and tea were the only staple food purchases. Women made the clothes, and the week was divided into hand-washing, ironing, preserving food, cooking on a wood stove and many other tasks. The most exciting event of the week was the arrival of the postman with the mail, provisions and papers. Trips to town were rare due to the appalling roads and many gates along the way.

Residents read books, sang or played instruments and gathered around the radio for news and entertainment. Black and white television became available in the 1970s, however there was only one channel. The phone lines from the interwar period were party lines erected and maintained by farmers, with a telephonist employed to manually connect callers. There were three party lines out of Waropurra and several from Bonshaw. Later the Barwick exchange was established at Mingoola.

Primary schools were established at Mole Station, New Farm, Watson's Crossing and Mingoola. These small one-teacher schools were of great assistance to local families, whose only other option for their children was Correspondence School.

Life was particularly hard between the wars due to the Great Depression, on top of poor seasons, prickly pear, dingoes, rabbits and a huge kangaroo population.

MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT



Italian Tobacco Barns

The Mingoola area has been home to many cultures since the advent of European settlement in the 1840s. The stations were mainly British owned and managed with some Aboriginal and Chinese employees however migration patterns began to change after the First World War. Two Jeffrey boys and some farm workers went to the Great War.

Veterans began settling blocks after the war including the Caldwells and Watts, Bill Hooper as manager of Roseneath, Archie Ralston and Hugh Richards. Colonel Bruxner, of Roseneath Station, encouraged English veterans to live and work in the valley.

From the 1920s to the 1970s, European migrants and refugees came to work on local tobacco farms, alongside Aboriginal workers. Migrants from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Holland and Malta all brought their own unique cuisine, wine and culture into a largely Anglo-Saxon community. Many farms are now owned by European migrant families.

The Second World War saw many enlistments including Peter Hynes, Terry Spencer, and Bob Smith. The Mole and Sovereign Red Cross Branch was formed, and saw the Red Cross ladies knitting for the front. Fuel shortages led to the installation of brick charcoal burners on Bruxner Way which provided an alternative fuel for vehicles.

The Great War veterans never wanted to celebrate Anzac Day. Since 2016, the Mingoola Progress Association has arranged an afternoon service to celebrate the lives of local veterans, and their contribution to these valleys. A BBQ and a game of Two-up follow the service!

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Community has always been important to locals. Games days, mostly tennis, cricket and parlour games, as well as dances in woolsheds, were popular amongst the community. The mostly Protestant population held church services at the Hall. At the height of the tobacco farming in the 1960s there were hundreds of European workers in the area, and up to 24 share farmers on one farm. Catholic mass was initially said at tobacco sheds.

Community get-togethers changed with music and food from Europe, even pasta-eating competitions, and Sunday afternoons attracted many to play bocci at the Hall. There are currently two vineyards established by Italian families, Reedy Creek and Bruxner's Run, previously Dumaresq Valley Vineyard.

In 2016, Mingoola became famous for its refugee settlement of people from Burundi, Africa and featured on ABC Australian Story. The local community fully supported the project to bring young families and subsequently reopen the local school. These migrants had spent up to sixteen years in refugee camps and yearned for the countryside.

The parents dreamed of growing crops as they had in Africa and found peace and contentment in Mingoola. Unfortunately, serious health conditions and the drought of 2018-20 which made crops and domestic water supply unmanageable, forced the abandonment of a long-term settlement plan, but the families have maintained local connections.



Burundian Garlic Grower

The project, undertaken by the Mingoola Progress Association, may not have been sustainable in the long term, however it was ground-breaking. Mingoola helped change both the conversation, and policy, around refugee resettlement into regional Australia.

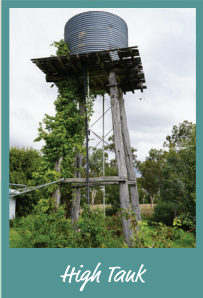
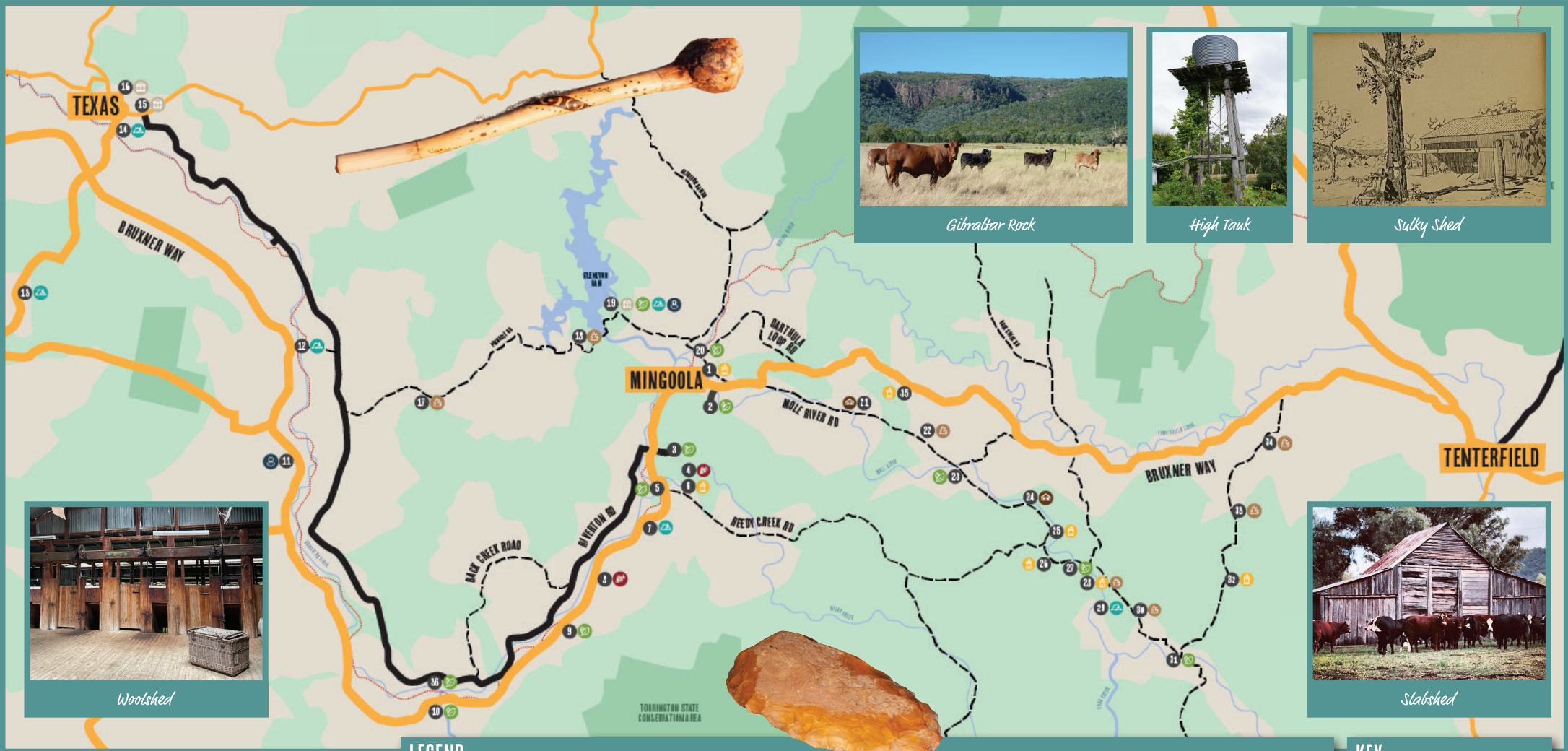
From the 1980s, many larger stations have been broken into smaller blocks, which appeal to people wishing to live in a welcoming community with a beautiful environment. New crops and enterprises have enlivened the region. These include winemaking, pecan farms, a flower farm and tourism linked to the surrounding National Parks and the Glenlyon Dam.

Border Closures during COVID19 split our integrated border community into two. Whilst we all had border passes, it was still impossible to drive across, which led to some interesting ways of circumventing the closed border regulations!

The Mingoola Fire Brigade was first formed in the early 1950s, by a group of landowners and their employees living around the Mingoola area. Previously landowners just assisted each other, and pooled resources. It is thought that Peter Hynes was the captain for 40 years. In the 1970s an old Landrover equipped with steel knapsacks with MB stenciled on the side, and steel water bottles, rakes and hoes was provided. Since then, the Brigade has been elevated to a Cat9, presently a Cat7, and a much-appreciated fire shed!



RFS Bonfire Night



LEGEND

- 1: Mingoola
- 2: Mole River Bridge, Mingoola
- 3: Hynes Bridge, Riverton
- 4: Reedy Creek Wines
- 5: Travelling Stock Reserve
- 6: Moorabinda Woolshed
- 7: Roseneath Station
- 8: Bruxner's Run Winery
- 9: Pecan farm
- 10: Travelling Stock Reserve
- 11: Bonshaw Store
- 12: Bonshaw Weir Camping
- 13: Goat Rock Camping Ground
- 14: Texas free Camp
- 15: Texas Rabbit Works
- 16: Texas Heritage Centre and Tobacco Museum
- 17: The Pinnacle
- 18: Glenlyon Dam Lookout
- 19: Glenlyon Dam
- 20: Dumaresq River Bridge, Mingoola Station Road
- 21: Trenayr Tobacco Barns and Woolshed
- 22: View to Rock of Gibraltar
- 23: Watts Crossing on Mole River
- 24: Cypress Tobacco Barn and Hayshed
- 25: Mole River Schoolhouse
- 26: Harold's Hut
- 27: Mole River Bridge, Mole River
- 28: Arsenic Mine
- 29: Ringtree Cabins
- 30: View to Ararat and Razorback
- 31: Mole Rive Bridge, Woodside Road
- 32: McAllister Grave
- 33: View of Red Rock Peak
- 34: Granite Boulders
- 35: Charcoal Burners
- 36: Maidenhead Crossing Dumaresq River

KEY

- Nature
- Geology
- History
- Camping
- Museum
- Winery
- Tobacco barns
- General Store Food/Fuel/Toilets
- QUEENSLAND/NSW BORDER
- MAIN ROAD
- UNSEALED ROAD
- MINOR ROAD