THE HUNTER VALLEY AND NORTH COAST

THE HUNTER VALLEY marks the beginning of a distinctive coastal area that extends north to the Queensland border; it has a character different from that of the coastlands to the south. The Hunter is the first of a series of valleys which have much in common: headwaters that rise in tableland scarps, alluvial flats that in their lower reaches are bounded by levee banks and were once covered with subtropical rainforest or 'brush' vegetation and a final coastal strip of heath-covered dunes. Before flood control schemes were built, the valleys were subject to serious flooding and none of the estuaries provided a good harbour. Each river had a treacherous bar, the crossing of which in sailing ship or steamer was frequently hazardous to early settlers. Densely timbered and hilly country separates each valley from the next. Being considered relatively useless areas, these are still sparsely populated. Other repeated landforms are the isolated basalt plateaus with characteristic red soils once covered with subtropical rainforest: the high flat surfaces of the Comboyne, Bulga and Dorrigo plateaus, and the Big Scrub add diversity to the region.

As well as being geographically similar, the valleys have features of settlement history in common. They once provided good living for many Aboriginal groups. The Europeans who first settled them were convicts, escapees or cedarcutters. In time these were replaced by squatters but, from the mid-nineteenth century, farmers began to replace the squatters. In many coastal areas and lower parts of the valleys, farmers are now making way for tourists, those seeking alternative lifestyles and retired people.

The Hunter River valley gains much of its distinctive character from the coal seams that underlie large portions of it, and from its penetration into the highlands. These geographical features, not repeated in the other coastal valleys, have resulted in the Hunter River valley becoming the major mining and electricity-generating area of the state, a region of manufacturing, and the route to the north and northwest. The valley's penetration inland means that agriculture is more diversified; in the west, it is similar to that of the Northwest Slopes. The Hunter River valley is also distinctive in being one of Australia's major wine-producing regions; the first vines were planted in the 1820s and major growth periods in the industry have occurred in the 1840s–50s and since the 1960s.

The Hunter was settled as a penal station in 1801, the convicts being put to work mining coal, thus starting the industry that was to shape the settlement of the lower river valley. Convicts were also set to cut the cedar that grew along the river. Due to its ease of working and resemblance to mahogany it was greatly prized as a furniture timber and its abundance attracted private cutters. They rapidly felled the cedar stands and were forced to search elsewhere. In their quest northwards, the cedarcutters were preceded by convicts. Demands to open the Hunter for free settlement made **Newcastle** no longer suitable as a prison and in 1823 the convicts were moved to **Port Macquarie**, where they were made to cut cedar from the brushes on the Hastings River. Private loggers soon arrived and in 1833 most of the convicts were shipped to **Moreton Bay**. From this date cedarcutters worked their way north: by 1837 they were felling cedar on the Macleay River, by 1838 on the Clarence River, and in the 1840s logging started on the Richmond River. As the cedar-getters moved north, they developed small ports from which to ship their logs to **Sydney**. Some of the camps subsequently became the largest towns within their respective valleys.

At the same time, squatters and selectors were moving up the Hunter River and its

Clarence River Entrance, *Yamba, 1886, watercolour by Neville H.P. Cayley.*
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tributaries. These new settlers were served by small river ports that shipped their farm produce, including wheat and potatoes, to **Sydney**. **Newcastle**, which had been in the doldrums following the closure of the penal station, did not start to grow until the late 1840s. From this date the town prospered as a coal port. Many pits were sunk, and mining settlements such as Hamilton, Adamstown, and the Lambtons grew up around them. These and other mine villages are the foundations of modern Newcastle. By the mid–eighteenth century manufacturing had started and the first smelter was operating from 1851 to process copper ores from South Australia. Poorly located with difficult access to the port, this smelter failed. Nevertheless, cheap coal attracted other smelters and ore-smelting has continued ever since. The opening of the Broken Hill Proprietary Co's iron and steel works in 1915 confirmed the metal industry as Newcastle's manufacturing base. Changes have occurred in the Hunter region since: in the 1980s the steel industry was rationalised, the aluminium industry strengthened and mining became a feature of the mid–Hunter area. Large power stations fed by giant open–cut mines now dominate the Hunter at Liddell and Bayswater. Other open cuts send their coal by massive trains to the coal loaders in the port of Newcastle.

The spread of manufacturing and mining through the Hunter River valley has had an impact on rural landscapes. Many derive their distinctive features from dairying, an activity closely associated with the Hunter and all the valleys of the north coast for about 100 years. It was dairying that gave small–scale farmers a secure base.

Selectors began to replace squatters in the northern valleys from the mid-1860s. At first the type of farming that would be successful was not apparent and there was a twenty-year period in which many crops were tried. In the 1860s during the American Civil War cotton was grown on the Clarence River to provide an alternative source of supply for Britain, but was not a success. Sugar cane, which had been grown without success at **Port Macquarie** in the 1840s, was again tried, this time on the northern rivers where the danger from frost was lower. The results were encouraging and by the 1870s sugar cultivation was established on the Clarence, Richmond and Tweed rivers. However the 1890s brought problems. Disease in the cane, lower prices and competition from Queensland saw sugar farming become less profitable. Many farmers in the north were forced to try other types of farming and they found success in dairying.

In the 1880s and 1890s refrigeration and mechanical cream separation made the establishment of dairying possible and 'grow cows instead of sugar cane' became the catchphrase of farmers on the northern rivers. *Paspalum*, an accidental discovery, became the pasture grass of the

industry. Selectors took advantage of opportunities in dairying. The Hunter, Williams and Paterson rivers became centres for butter and cheese production. Dairy farms were established and butter factories built in the Manning and Macleay valleys. Dairy co-operatives were set up: in 1895 Norco produced its first butter. Dairying was soon found throughout the region and was to shape much of the rural landscape.

As this frenetic expansion of dairying proceeded, settlers as well as timber men turned their attention to the plateau areas. The deep reddish brown soils of the Comboyne and Dorrigo plateaus and the Big Scrub excited settlers, who believed that they held untold agricultural wealth. The heavy vegetation was cleared with great effort and little thought to make way for small farms and dairy cows. The timber-getters quickly cut out the 'brush' species and, as elsewhere in the region, turned their attention to the extensive stands of hardwoods. Small logging villages were set up and added to the region's output of timber which accounted for more than half that of the state. Timber-getting persists, in a reduced form, but most of the bush camps and timber villages with their sawmills have gone. The industry's contribution to the character of the region is commemorated at Timbertown near **Wauchope**.

Throughout the nineteenth century the valleys retained separate identities. Their major contacts with the outside world were via their respective ports. **Newcastle** was by far the largest, serving not only the coal trade and settlers in the valley, but also pastoralists on the tablelands who sent their produce to the port via the northern railway. None of the other coastal ports had good connections to the tablelands and they remained small, serving local valley communities. Many local residents nevertheless believed in their ultimate greatness. But all this was an elusive dream. **Coffs Harbour** never became a large overseas port and, without a rail connection that could tap the pastoral wealth of the tablelands, the Clarence River valley also failed to develop a major port. The government-sponsored port of Iluka (see Yamba) at the mouth of the river remains no more than a costly breakwater, a monument to a political promise. For the small ports, trade consisted of passengers, dairy produce and timber. Gradually this trade was lost as the north coast railway pushed slowly through the region. By 1913 the Manning valley was served by rail and by 1917 the railway was at **Kempsey**. In 1932 the building of the rail bridge over the Clarence at **Grafton** made the rail link complete and the days of coastal steamers were over.
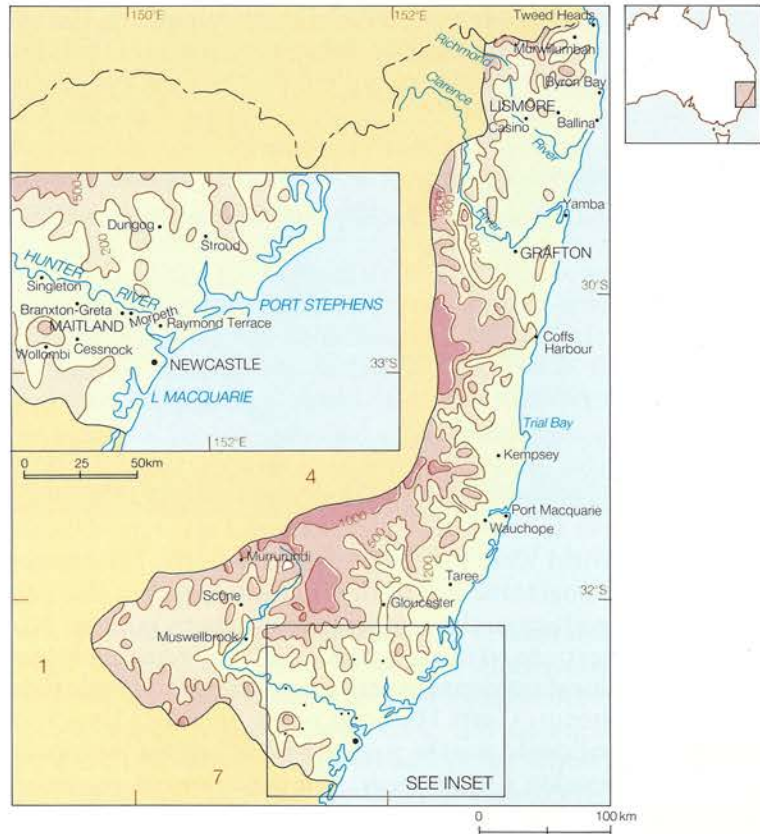
The railway was a tenuous link and it soon faced competition from motor vehicles. Most visitors to the region now drive along the Pacific Highway, unaware of the difficulty there once was in travelling along the coast. New bridges sweep the motorist high above the rivers that once were so difficult to cross and so dangerous to enter.

The Hunter's urbanised and industrialised landscape contrasts with the northern rivers. However, its inhabitants go to great lengths to extol the attractions of the valley, arguing that the vineyards, the Barringtons and **Port Stephens** are as much a part of the Hunter region as are its mines, power stations and steelworks. Residents of the northern rivers region have no such 'image' problems; the coastal stretches of their valleys are fast becoming tourist attractions. The coastal valleys so long dominated by the routine of dairy farming and the activities of timber-men are now showing the trappings of affluent and sometimes brash tourist resorts. It is to be hoped that this development will not overwhelm the long-recognised natural beauty of the valleys and the coast.

Jack Camm

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BALLINA [28°52'S 153°34'E]

Popn: 359 (1881), 2441 (1911), 6141 (1971), 9738 (1981). Name: originally Aborig *bul-loonah* or similar with various meanings suggested, but changed to Ballina in 1868 after town in Ireland. Also once known as Deptford. Cedarcutters at site of East Ballina in the 1840s; had one of earliest sawmills in NSW and timber ships loaded in Shaws Bay. Settlement of West Ballina began in 1851. Town gazetted in 1856, became a municipality in 1883. In the 1860s gold found in beach sands; miners worked intermittently until c1900. Richmond River Heads post office estab in 1856, known as Ballina from 1868. Sugar mill opened in 1865 after plantings in the early 1860s. Large Broadwater mill to south opened by Colonial Sugar Refining Co in 1881; became a co-operative in 1978. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1867. Ferry service began in 1872. Heavy shipping losses on bar at entrance to river in 1855: breakwater and new entrance largely built by 1896 as result and additions continued until the 1930s. Rlwy opened in 1930, closed in 1949. Sand mining began in 1934, offshore prawning in 1950. Tourists and retirement community important since the 1960s.

BRANXTON–GRETA [32°39'S 151°22'E]

Popn: 657 (1881), 1751 (1891), 861 (1901), 2485 (1976). Branxton was first named Black Creek, renamed in 1848 when village land subdivided and lots sold: major landholders K. & H. Scott commissioned plans for village in 1841. James Busby took up Kirkton grant and planted vines in the 1820s. Dalwood House built by George Wyndham in 1838 on 1823 grant bought by him in 1828: first vines planted c1830. Coalmining began at Anvil Creek in 1862 and Anvil Creek mine opened in 1874 became a major source of coal for town gas manufacture. Many collieries in district have opened and closed since 1900. Rlwy opened in 1862. Kerosene shale discov there in 1864. St John's Anglican church built 1878–81. Courthouse (RNE) built c1888, closed in 1969. Adjoining village of Greta surveyed and named in 1842. Greta coal seam mined from 1880. World War II military camp at Greta became a migrant camp after the war.

BYRON BAY [28°41'S 153°37'E]

Popn: 1222 (1911), 3187 (1981). Bay and Cape Byron named by Capt James Cook in 1770 after navigator John Byron, poet Lord Byron's grandfather. Capt Rous RN took soundings in area in 1828. District settled in the 1850s–60s by cedar-getters. Breakwater built in 1889. Rlwy opened in 1894. Norco Co-operative Soc (dairy products company) estab here in 1895. Cape Byron lighthouse (RNE) completed in 1901. Mineral sands mining for rutile and zircon began in 1934. Lost fishing co-operative to nearby Brunswick Heads when jetty destroyed and 26 boats lost in 1954 storm. Whaling station estab in 1954, closed in 1962. Tourism has grown in importance in recent years.

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CASINO [28°51′S 153°03′E]

Popn: 284 (1871), 1926 (1901), 5287 (1933), 9743 (1981). Named Cassino after town in Italy. First European settlers Henry Clay and George Stapleton crossed Richmond River and founded station in 1840. Settlement grew up at ford, town surveyed and gazetted in 1855. Public school opened in 1861. Larger than **Lismore** by 1871, but eclipsed by latter by 1891. Post Office (RNE) built in 1879. Rlwy opened in 1905.

CESSNOCK [32°50′S 151°21′E]

Popn: 130 (1881), 3957 (1911), 14 385 (1933), 13 029 (1947), 16 916 (1981). Named after castle in Scotland. John and David Campbell took up Cessnock grant in 1826, subdividing estate and developing village in 1853. Cessnock Hotel on site of 1856 inn. Coal discov in district in 1856, but full potential not realised until 1886 investigations by T.W. Edgeworth David. Richmond Vale, first district colliery, opened in 1891, operated until 1967. Bellbird colliery estab in 1908: serious mine explosion there in 1923 when 27 killed. Industrial conflict in 1929 culminated in 'Rothbury Riot' and one death. Downturn in mining industry 1954–61 led to unemployment, although many found jobs in local manufacturing or in **Newcastle** industry. Many pits closed from 1958. First vineyard in immediate district developed in 1866, although Tyrrells estab one at Pokolbin to northwest in 1858: there has been a major increase in wine production in district since World War II. Cessnock gaol opened in 1972. Greater Cessnock now comprises 25 formerly separate towns and mining villages, including **Kurri Kurri–Weston**.

COFFS HARBOUR [30°17′S 153°07′E]

Popn: 1114 (1911), 2966 (1947), 7188 (1961), 16 020 (1981). Named after John Korff who sheltered in harbour in 1847. Name became Coff's Harbour in 1861, officially Coffs Harbour from 1897. Important cedarcutting area and once Aust's largest timber port. Trade halted 1865–78 after loss of *Carrywell* and consequent boycott of port by ships' captains; but cedar scarce when trade resumed in 1878 after lighthouse built. Town site surveyed in 1861, town proclaimed in 1886. Sugar grown from 1881, but frost and transport problems led to lack of success. Work on breakwaters began in 1914. Rlwy opened in 1915. Commercial banana growing began in 1929, although attempts had been made as early as 1913. Rapid growth as resort and retirement centre from the 1960s. Sawtell to the south has already grown rapidly (popn: 1440 (1954), 5970 (1981)).

DUNGOG [32°25′S 151°45′E]

Popn: 286 (1851), 2211 (1961), 2099 (1966), 2126 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'bare or clear hill'. Cedar-getters or stockmen probably first Europeans in district; first land grant made by Gov Darling in 1824. Land for village set aside in 1830, settlement known as Dungog from 1834. Cedarcutting continued in district through the 1830s–50s. Courthouse (RNE) built 1835–38 as barracks for troopers sent to curb bushranging in district: converted to courthouse use in 1849. School built c1843. Hardwood timber industry grew from the 1860s. Flour mills, tanneries and tobacco factories by the 1860s. Rlwy opened in 1911. Dungog firm provided timber for laminated panels for interior of Sydney Opera House in 1972.

FORSTER–TUNCURRY [32°12′S 152°30′E]

Popn: 330 (1901), 1077 (1933), 2266 (1954), 3687 (1971), 9261 (1981). Town site surveyed as Minimbah in 1869. Site for village of Forster gazetted in 1870. Minimbah provisional school opened in 1872, changed name to Forster in 1880. Tuncurry (Aborig = 'plenty of fish')

Gloucester Bucketts, *oil by Arthur Streeton, 1894.*
NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ART MUSEUM

known as North Forster until 1875, officially proclaimed a village in 1893. Bridge built to link two towns in 1959. Wallis Lake Fisherman's Co-operative is one of largest fish suppliers in NSW. Tourism increasingly important since the 1960s.

GLOUCESTER [32°01′S 151°57′E]

Popn: 1472 (1911), 2488 (1981). Named in the late 1890s after Gloucester Estate of Aust Agric Co and after city in England. Govt surveyor Henry Dangar was first European in district in 1826. Robert Dawson, chief agent for Aust Agric Co, visited area in same yr and was very impressed: company estab chain of sheep stations in district with limited success, did better with cattle and horses. Henry Dumaresq expanded pastoral stations in Gloucester–Giro districts. In the 1830s families estab themselves on small farms along Barrington R leased from company. Former company outstation (RNE, built c1830) remains in town area. Town estab in 1899 on former company land. New saleyards opened in 1975. Alluvial gold discov at Copeland to west in 1872, underground mining began in 1877. Popn reached about 3000 in 1890, but boom over by c1900. Aust Agric Co sold holdings in district to Gloucester Estate Syndicate in 1903, which drew up town subdivision and sold allotments. Rlwy opened in 1913.

GRAFTON [29°40′S 152°58′E]

Popn: 319 (1851), 2250 (1871), 6411 (1933), 9759 (1954), 15 526 (1961), 17 005 (1981). Named by Gov FitzRoy in 1845 after his grandfather Augustus FitzRoy, Duke of Grafton, British prime minister. Earlier known as 'the Settlement'. Cedarcutters in district in the mid-1830s, soon followed by pastoralists. Boatbuilding at South Grafton 1838–40, settlement there in the late 1830s. Wharf, store and inn built on better site on north bank in the 1840s. First wool brought to head of navigation here in 1842. Area surveyed in 1847; town laid out to govt plan and proclaimed in 1848. Dray road to **Armidale** built in 1851. Wharves dominated town in the 1850s when growth was also boosted by gold discoveries on upper Clarence River. Municipality proclaimed in 1859. Post Office Hotel (RNE) opened in 1860. Original courthouse (RNE) built 1860–62, replaced 1877–80 (RNE). Post office (RNE) built in 1874. Christ Church Anglican cathedral (RNE) built 1874–84. Proclaimed a city in 1883. Roman Catholic see estab in 1888. Gaol (RNE) built in 1893. Rlwy to **Casino** opened in 1905; from **Sydney** in 1915; to **Brisbane** in 1930. Bridge built over Clarence R in 1932 to link South Grafton and Grafton by road and rlwy. Annual Jacaranda Festival first held in 1934. Ulmarra, downstream, was important 19th cent river port, classified by Nat T. Sugar growing from the 1860s with limited success. Prosperity came later with dairy industry.

KEMPSEY [31°04′S 152°50′E]

Popn: 123 (1851), 1321 (1881), 4824 (1933), 9037 (1981). Named after a village in Worcestershire, England. Portion of Macleay R explored in 1820, most of remainder by 1825. Valley lands surveyed in 1830.

Timber industry in valley in the 1830s. Enoch Rudder subdivided part of his property for village in 1836 and lots offered for sale. Punt operating from that yr and town grew as river port and service centre. Govt town of West Kempsey laid out on north bank of Macleay R in 1854, proclaimed in 1855: became port and administrative centre for Macleay valley. Proclaimed a borough in 1886. Rlwy opened in 1917. Serious flooding in 1949–50 and 1953. Large housing commission estate built in the 1950s at time of rapid growth generally. Important poplar plantations developed in district from 1973. Akubra hat factory decentralised here from **Sydney** in 1974. Further rapid growth as resort and retirement centre in the 1970s–80s.

KURRI KURRI–WESTON [32°50′S 151°29′E]

Popn: 5885 (1911), 9687 (1933), 7903 (1954), 12 795 (1981). Name: Aborig *kurri kurri* = 'man' or 'the first'. Town laid out in 1902, land sales from 1903. Richmond Main colliery developed in 1900 by J. & A. Brown after earlier boring for coal from 1888; private rlwy built from mine to main line and river at Hexham in 1900; mine closed in the 1960s following decline in demand and opening of open-cut mines in the upper Hunter. Other major collieries were Stanford Main No 1 (1898–1957) and Pelaw Main (1901–62). Aust Agric Co began to develop colliery in area in 1903 and village of Hebburn grew as result. Private town of Weston takes name from Weston family estate on which it was established. Since c1960 Kurri Kurri–Weston has become major residential area for **Cessnock**. Aluminium smelter opened in 1969 but major expansion planned in the early 1980s has not gone ahead.

KYOGLE [28°37′S 153°00′E]

Popn: 1347 (1911), 2394 (1933), 3070 (1981). Named after Kaiou-gal cattle station: Aborig = 'bustard' or 'brush turkey'. Kaiou-gal estab c1870; part of estate subdivided for Kyogle village in 1903, further subdivisions in 1907 and 1915. Rlwy from **Casino** opened in 1910, that to **Brisbane** in 1932. Soldier settlement at Dyraaba and Sextonville 1922–23 — development of dairy industry followed. Large timber veneer works operating by the 1920s. Toonumber Dam opened in 1972.

LAKE MACQUARIE [33°04′S 151°37′E]

Popn: 44 065 (1954), 147 943 (1981). Named after Gov Lachlan Macquarie. Commonly known as Reid's Mistake until 1826 as Capt W. Reid sailed into lake when sent to Hunter River for coal in 1800. Surveys of lake made in 1826 and 1829–31. Aborig mission station estab at site of Belmont by Rev L.E. Threlkeld in 1825: Ebenezer station moved to Toronto in 1830, closed in 1841. Coalmine opened on land in 1840 to be worked intermittently until 1850. Township of Newport (Dora Creek) estab in 1840 after opening of fertile land in area, became important for timber and shingles in the 1860s. Land acts of 1861 led to selection in Belmont area and village founded in 1868 when allotments sold: coalmining in area from the 1860s. Lake generally became resort area for **Newcastle** and **Cessnock** from

A postcard commemorating the flooding of the Richmond River at Lismore in 1921.
MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

the 1880s. Township of Toronto grew close to newly surveyed rlwy from 1885: land company developing town built tramway to rlwy station at Fassifern in 1889; converted to rlwy c1910. Teralba surveyed in 1886 after quarries and collieries opened in district and rlwy built. Sulphide Corp estab electrolytic plant at Boolaroo 1895–97 to treat **Broken Hill** zinc and lead ore until 1922: produced sulphuric acid and phosphate fertilisers in the 1960s. Urban expansion south from **Newcastle** along rlwy in Cardiff and Toronto areas to northwest of lake after 1910. Headquarters of Shire of Lake Macquarie opened at Teralba in 1906, moved to Speer's Point in 1914. Eraring, Vales Point and Wangi Wangi power stations in district all built in the 1950s–80s.

LISMORE [28°49′S 153°17′E]

Popn: 93 (1871), 7609 (1911), 15 214 (1947), 24 033 (1981). Named after island in Argyllshire, Scotland; origin probably Gaelic *lios mor* = 'great garden'. Capt Rous reached Richmond River in 1828. Cedar-getters in district in the 1840s floated logs downstream to future town site; became important timber port. Lismore station taken up in 1843. Village laid out in 1855, gazetted in 1856, but popn grew slowly, partly because of rivalry from **Casino**. More intensive settlement in district followed Robertson's land acts of 1861, especially in the 1870s. First important crop was maize; sugar introduced in the early 1870s. Post office (RNE) built, municipality estab in 1879. Courthouse (RNE) built and gas works estab in 1888. St Carthage's Roman Catholic cathedral built 1892–1906. Rlwy to **Murwillumbah** opened in 1894. Spring Hill Co-op dairy factory estab in 1899, but main development of dairying this century. Proclaimed a city in 1946. Flood control centre opened in 1951. Bananas and other tropical fruits grown commercially, mainly since the early 1950s. Northern Rivers CAE granted corporate status in 1974.

MAITLAND [32°44′S 151°34′E]

Popn (East and West): 1163 (1836), 4230 (1851), 7304 (1881), 19 151 (1947), 38 865 (1981). Earlier known as Molly Morgan's Plains (West Maitland) and Wallis Plains or 'the Camp' (East Maitland), the last after cedar-getters' camp estab in 1804. This grew into permanent village after 1812. Molly Morgan, freed convict, received land grant in 1825 and set up grog shanty around which settlement grew. Rich agric land on riverflats worked by emancipated convicts and free settlers by 1823. Police barracks estab at East Maitland in 1827. Bridge House built in 1829 and earlier Clift House of 1819 (both RNE) remain on Fosters Farm in East Maitland. Opening of road from **Windsor** in 1831 led to Maitland becoming pre-eminent over **Newcastle**. First river steamer service to **Sydney** began in 1831. After 1819 flood settlers petitioned govt to estab town on safer site and East Maitland surveyed in 1829, proclaimed in 1833: became administrative centre while West Maitland remained commercial centre. First steam mill in NSW outside Sydney area built in West Maitland in 1834. Victoria Hotel (RNE) built in 1840. Aberglasslyn (RNE) built 1840–42. *Maitland Mercury* newspaper estab in 1843, second oldest continuing Aust newspaper. Gaol in East Maitland (RNE) built 1844–48. First building of hospital dates from 1846–49. Presbyterian church (RNE) built in 1849, adjoining school house (RNE) c1850. Rlwy from Newcastle opened in 1857. Brough House and Grossman House (both Nat T, RNE) built 1860–62; former now City Art Gallery. East Maitland courthouse (RNE) built in 1866. St Mary's Anglican church (RNE) completed in 1867. Coal mined around West Maitland from the 1870s. Tramway operated 1909–26. First speedway races in world held at 1925 agric show. Two towns officially combined in 1944. Floods in 1955 led to 11 drownings. Lochinvar in district built by convict

labour in the 1820s, later occupied by politician W.C. Wentworth. Walka Waterworks at Oakhampton to north supplied Hunter region with water from 1887 to 1929.

MORPETH [32°44′S 151°38′E]

Popn: 734 (1851), 1472 (1856), 1175 (1861), 1372 (1881), 1045 (1933), included in **Maitland** from 1969. Named after town near Newcastle, England: first used for parish in 1827. Previously known as Illuluang, then as Green Hills. Green Hills property estab in 1821 as land grant to Lieut Edward Close at head of navigation. Village of Illuluang estab on part of grant 1827–30 as port for Maitland: especially important in steamer era after 1831 when *Sophia Jane* first reached here. Two hotels licensed in 1832. Convicts built road from Maitland in 1833. St James' Church built 1837–40. Post office opened in 1838, steam mill in 1840, soap works in 1844. Talcum powder made here in the 1840s by Caleb Soul, co-founder of Soul Pattison pharmaceutical firm. Former courthouse (RNE), post and telegraph office and first state school all built in 1862. Rlwy opened in 1864, closed after flood damage in 1953. Became a municipality in 1865, ceased to be such in 1969 when amalgamated with Maitland. River trade and popn declined after opening of **Sydney** to **Newcastle** rlwy in 1889. Butter factory opened in 1907; dehydration factory to supply allied forces estab in 1944. Rlwy closed in 1953. Town classified by Nat T and RNE.

MURRURUNDI [31°45′S 150°50′E]

Popn: 88 (1851), 1658 (1911), 861 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'nestling in a valley'. First European settlers in the 1820s. Private township known as Haydonton estab in the 1820s on land of Haydon brothers. Post office operated from 1837. Several bushrangers from Jew Boy's gang captured here in 1839. Adjacent govt town laid out in 1840. Original St Joseph's Roman Catholic church built on Haydon's land in 1841. Old courthouse, now a lock-up, built in 1841, White Hart Hotel in 1842. Anglican church built in 1846. Courthouse, police station and gaol all built in 1860 (all RNE). Rlwy opened in 1872 and town prospered as central camp for rlwy gangs building line over Liverpool Range to northwest. Town important as on routes across Liverpool Range to valuable new grazing lands to northwest: Pandora's Pass traversed by Allan Cunningham in 1823, Dart Brook Pass by Henry Dangar in 1824, and Murrurundi Pass by Dangar in 1825. The range was part of boundary of limits to settlement from 1829. Burning Mountain (burning coal seam) at Wingen to south discov in 1828–29. Rlwy opened in 1872. Township classified as urban conservation area by Nat T.

MURWILLUMBAH [28°19′S 153°25′E]

Popn: 2676 (1911), 4954 (1947), 7807 (1981). Name: Aborig, possibly = 'place of many possums'. Town site surveyed in 1872. Post office opened at Kynnumboon in 1866, transferred to Murwillumbah in 1878 and township began to grow. Courthouse built in 1879, bank in 1880. Sugar mill in area opened in 1880, sugar having been grown since c1869. Punt operated on Tweed R until ferry commenced in 1888. Rlwy to **Lismore** opened in 1894. Proclaimed a municipality in 1902. Hospital opened in 1904, Norco co-operative butter factory in 1906. Much of town centre destroyed in fire in 1907. Banana planting began in the early 20th cent. Resort centre since the 1960s.

MUSWELLBROOK [32°17′S 150°53′E]

Popn: 215 (1836), 1445 (1871), 1074 (1881), 3939 (1947), 8125 (1971), 7805 (1976), 8548 (1981). Surveyor Henry Dangar probably first European in district in 1824. Previously called Muscle Brook because early settlers found small shellfish in local creek: new spelling used from 1838. Col Henry Dumaresq acquired St Heliers run in 1826. Village founded in 1827 on reserve set aside by surveyor Dangar in 1824. Town gazetted in 1833. White Hart Hotel (now Eaton's, RNE) built in 1839, rebuilt in 1857. Police barracks built in 1839. Flour mill built c1841. St Alban's Anglican church built 1839–45, replaced 1864–67. Rlwy opened in 1869. Large-scale coalmining in district in the late 1970s and 1980s. Open-cut mine at Drayton began operations in 1983. Balmoral (RNE) in district built c1857–59.

NEWCASTLE [32°57′S 151°43′E]

Popn: 704 (1836), 1471 (1846), 1340 (1851), 8986 (1881), 54 991 (1901), 104 485 (1933), 258 972 (1981). Named after coalmining city in England. Known as King's Town in early yrs.

Explorers and convicts Capt James Cook sighted Nobby's (island at mouth of Hunter River) in 1770. Convict escapees found coal in area in 1791. Hunter R reached by Lieut John Shortland and named Coal R in 1797 as coal found on its banks. Captains of ships began collecting coal for sale in **Sydney** in 1798; small trial shipments made to Bengal in 1799. Harbour surveyed by Francis Barrallier in 1801. Convict camp estab in 1801 to mine coal on recommendation of Lieut-Col Paterson, but camp only operated until 1802. Also timbercutting in area in 1801–02. Larger penal settlement estab on same site under military control in 1804 as place of secondary transportation and to mine coal and manufacture salt. Permanent settlement evolved on basis of coalmining soon afterwards. First coal shaft sunk in 1814. East Newcastle public school, oldest existing public school in Aust, estab in 1816. Gaol built at East Newcastle in 1817–18. Hospital opened in 1817, Christ Church Anglican church in 1818, courthouse in 1822. Town site surveyed by Henry Dangar in 1822–23, by which time there were 13 govt buildings and 71 convict homes. Govt lime kiln and brickworks estab in 1822. Penal settlement transferred to **Port Macquarie** in 1823. Became less important than **Maitland** when road from **Windsor** to Maitland opened in 1831.

Coalmining settlements Post office opened in 1828. First coalmining lease granted in 1826, coal being exported by 1831. Aust Agric Co took over Newcastle mine and 810 ha in area in 1829, giving it a monopoly on coalmining in district: first use of iron rails in Aust was for company's tramway from mine to

wharf. Coal production greatly increased after 1831 when company opened its first new mine and 5000 tonnes produced. Merewether estab as coalmining settlement in the mid-1830s, Hexham as river port. District council estab in 1843. Causeway to Nobby's completed in 1846. Smelting works begun at Burwood (Murdering Gully) in 1846 to treat SA and NZ copper ores, operational from 1851. A number of other mining companies estab in 1847 and coal monopoly ended. Diocese of Newcastle given status of a city in 1847. Dangar brothers were first to commercially can meat here in 1847. Permanent large-scale shipbuilding began with establishment of Stockton Ship Co in 1847. Hamilton estab as coalmining village in 1849, Waratah soon after. Former police station (RNE) built in 1849. Mining began at Minmi in 1855. City growth followed opening of rlwy from Newcastle to **Maitland** in 1857 and lessening of Aust Agric Co's hold on coalmining. Lighthouse built on Nobby's in 1857–58; harbour dredged in 1859. Waratah began as mining settlement in the late 1850s: main Waratah colliery opened in 1865. Mine opened at Wallsend in 1859, leading to estab of settlement there.

Growth and consolidation Incorporated as a municipal town in 1859. Telegraph to Sydney opened in 1860. Arnott's biscuit company founded here in

Until the development of Port Kembla from the late 1930s Newcastle was by far the largest centre of steel production in Australia. Australia today, *1937.*
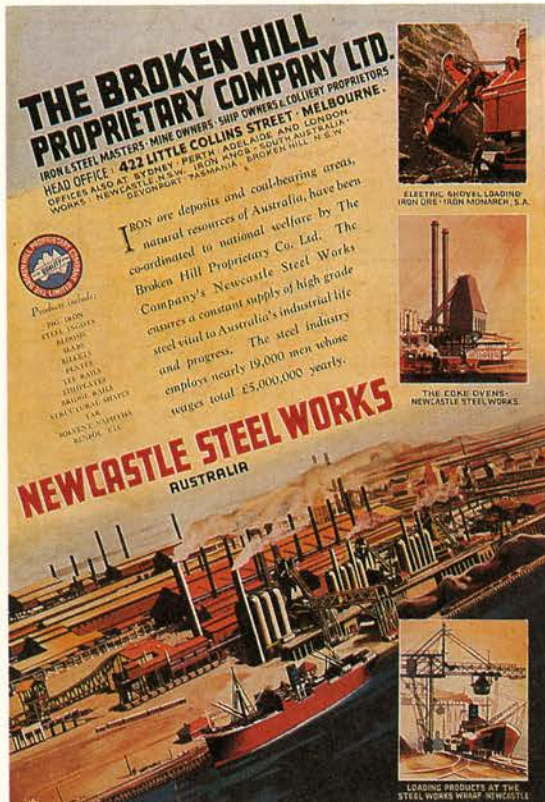
BOOROWA PRODUCTIONS

1865, but moved to Sydney in the early 20th cent. Gas supplied from 1866. New Lambton founded by mining company in 1868. Christ Church Cathedral (RNE) designed by J. Horbury Hunt in 1869; built on and off until finished, except for central spire, in 1979. Many suburbs became municipalities in 1871. District coal production reached 0.5m tonnes per annum by 1872. Rlwy station (RNE) built 1872–78. Customs house (RNE) designed by James Barnet, built in 1876–77. Carrington hydraulic power station built in 1877 to power cranes on new wharves. Fort Scratchley (RNE) built 1881–86 in face of Russian invasion scare. Last mine of Aust Agric Co closed in 1885. Walka water scheme (see Maitland) estab 1885–87. Tramway service estab in 1887. Rlwy from Sydney opened in 1889 after bridging of Hawkesbury River, leading to consolidation of Newcastle's pre-eminence in the Hunter region. Courthouse (RNE) built and electric lighting introduced in 1890. Hunter District Water Board constituted in 1892. Trades Hall and technical college (both RNE) built in 1894–95. Slump in coalmining industry in the 1900s.

Steel city In 1912 Broken Hill Proprietary Co chose Newcastle as site for steelworks that opened in 1915: three blast furnaces operating by 1921. NSW govt provided road and port works needed. State Dockyard estab on Walsh Is in 1914. Commonwealth Steel factory estab in 1917. Lysaghts built factory c1920. Floating dock built at shipyard in 1925. Most of industry dependent in some way on BHP steelworks. Legal protection for surface owners against damage instituted in 1928 following subsidence problems. City hall built in 1929. Among the highest levels of unemployment in Aust during depression of the early 1930s. State Dockyard closed in 1933, but reopened on new site in 1941. Greater Newcastle Bill amalgamating many municipalities passed in 1937. Armaments plant opened in 1938. Fort Scratchley fired on Japanese submarine in 1942 after city shelled.

Postwar changes Rapid suburban growth with increase in car ownership. Last trams ran in 1950, replaced by govt buses. Kooragang Is reclaimed for industrial expansion in 1951. University college estab in 1951, became autonomous University of Newcastle in 1965. Fort Scratchley vacated by army in 1972, now a maritime museum. Scheme to deepen harbour undertaken in 1977 at $70m cost. Fuel pipeline of 225 km between Kurnell (Sydney) and Wickham opened in 1982. BHP and associated industries laid off workers in 1982 due to slump in demand and their desire to cut labour costs. New bulk coal-loading facility built on Kooragang Is in the early 1980s. First electric train service from **Sydney** in 1984. (See also Lake Macquarie, Raymond Terrace.)

PORT MACQUARIE [31°26′S 152°55′E]
Popn: 820 (1836), 1053 (1841), 519 (1851), 1727 (1933), 5952 (1961), 9343 (1971), 19 581 (1981). Named after Gov Lachlan Macquarie by surveyor John Oxley in 1818. Town known as Macquarie in early years. James Cook (1770) and Matthew Flinders (1802) sailed along coast, but Hastings R and port first explored by Oxley

in 1818. Capt Allman led party to estab penal settlement in 1821. First sugar grown in 1822 on what became police paddock; first sugar mill in Aust estab and sugar made in 1824, but climate not really suitable and all district mills closed by 1880. St Thomas's Anglican church (RNE) designed by Francis Greenway, built 1824–28, Aust's third oldest church. Penal function declining by 1831 as settlement spread along coast. Old gaol built by convicts finished in 1840, demolished in 1917. Convict wrote novel *Ralph Rashleigh* in the 1840s about his experiences here. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1869. Lighthouse, built in 1879, is third oldest in Aust. Became a municipality in 1887. Rapid expansion as resort and retirement centre since the 1960s. Town also serves as regional centre for other resort and retirement settlements to its south, including Lake Cathie (popn 941 (1981)) and Camden Haven (popn 3161 (1981)).

PORT STEPHENS [32°42′S 152°10′E]

Sighted by Capt James Cook in 1770 and named by him after Philip Stephens, secretary to the Admiralty. Convict ship *Salamander* was first to enter in 1791. Harbour charted by Charles Grimes in 1795; inspected by Gov Lachlan Macquarie in 1812. Timbercutting in area from 1821. Aust Agric Co granted land between Port Stephens and Manning R (see Taree) in 1824. Headquarters estab in 1826 at Tahlee House (RNE) built by convicts in 1826 at Carrington on northern shore. Carrington church built in 1846–47, settlement closed in 1856. Capt William and Mrs Cromarty settled on northern shore in 1824, but moved to Soldiers Point to allow Aust Agric Co to take up all land to north: Mrs Cromarty ran store at Soldiers Point for whalers and fishermen. Cedarcutting in area in the 1820s. Harbour used for shelter by passing ships and as source of wood and water for whalers in the 1850s–60s. Two lighthouses at entrance to Port Stephens (both RNE) built in the early 1860s. Oyster industry began in 1873; developed rapidly in the 1920s, now largest single production area in Aust. First survey at Nelson Bay in 1874, post office opened in 1883. Picnic excursions run to area in first quarter of 20th cent by Hunter River Steam Navigation Co. Shark-catching station operated at Pindimar 1927–33. Refrigerated sheds built for fishermen's co-operative in 1956. Large-scale resort and retirement development in the 1960s–70s, especially at Nelson Bay (popn 7931 (1981)) and Shoal Bay on the southern shore and Hawks Nest on the north shore.

RAYMOND TERRACE [32°46′S 151°46′E]

Popn: 364 (1841), 263 (1846), 1369 (1947), 3962 (1961), 7548 (1981). Referred to as such by Gov Macquarie in 1818. Town site reserved in 1822–23. Much of district land granted to Aust Agric Co in 1824 (see Port Stephens). Irrawang granted to James King in 1827; homestead built in 1833–34 and pottery estab. Agric commenced there in 1831: first vines planted in 1832, first wine produced in 1836. Kinross (RNE) built 1835–38. Shipping facilities for pottery products estab in the 1830s. Courthouse (1838) and police station (1841) both RNE. Flour mill opened in 1840. Important

wool shipping centre of the 1840s though serious flooding in 1857 retarded progress: some shipping until the 1920s. Industry estab since c1930. Tomago House (RNE) built in 1843, chapel (RNE) in 1861. Tomago sand beds exploited by pumping water since the 1860s; developed as an important source of water supply for **Newcastle** from 1941, 21 pumping stations by the early 1980s. Tomago was coalmining village until Courtauld's rayon plant estab in 1950; large aluminium smelter under construction in the 1980s, first stage opened in 1984. Williamtown RAAF base and civil airport estab in 1941.
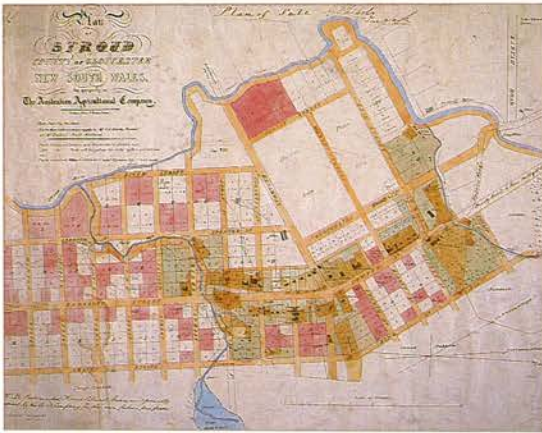
SCONE [32°04′S 150°52′E]

Popn: 63 (1841), 1435 (1911), 3351 (1954), 2680 (1961), 3949 (1981). Named after site of coronation of Scottish kings. Known earlier as Invermein. Area explored by Henry Dangar in 1824–25. First grants taken up in 1825. Segenhoe (RNE) granted to British MP T. MacQueen in 1825: he sent out manager, artisans, labourers and stock. Invermein (RNE) built c1826. Settlement of Invermein laid out and gazetted in 1836–37, first allotments sold in 1838. William Dumaresq subdivided and leased part of his estate near town and by 1840 a private village had developed next to govt one. Original Anglican church completed in 1841. Former courthouse (RNE) built in 1848–49. First school opened in 1858. Flour mill built 1861–63, now RSL club. Rlwy opened in 1871. Proclaimed a municipality in 1888. Soldier settlement in district after World War II.

SINGLETON [32°34′S 151°11′E]

Popn: 431 (1841), 1951 (1881), 3940 (1947), 9572 (1981). Named after town founder Benjamin Singleton. John Howe reached Patrick Plains district in 1820. Singleton took up land in 1823, soon after opened inn for passing travellers. Work on Great North Road from **Sydney** via **Wiseman's Ferry** and **Wollombi** began in 1826, completed in the early 1830s. Barley Mow Inn, built by Singleton by 1827; he built a flour mill to process district grain in 1829. Post office opened at Darlington, now a suburb, in 1829; name changed to Singleton in 1835. Singleton subdivided part of his property for town in 1836. Old courthouse and lock-up (now museum) built in 1841. Caledonian Hotel built in 1853, Mechanics' Inst in 1866. Became a municipality in 1866. Rlwy opened in 1863, led to switch to dairying in district. Large areas of vines planted in the 1860s–70s. Coal mined in area from the early 1880s. Minimbah House (RNE) in district built 1875–77. Soldier settlement in area after World War I. Liddell power station in area opened in stages 1971–74: Ravensworth open-cut mine to supply it with coal opened in 1972.

STROUD [32°25′S 151°58′E]

Popn: 368 (1856), 1098 (1911), 545 (1933), 769 (1954), 522 (1981). Named after town in Gloucestershire, England. Karuah valley explored by Henry Dangar in 1826. One of most important convict camps on Aust Agric Co's **Port Stephens** estate; farm and outstation for sheep estab in 1827. Company planned and built town in the late 1820s; replaced former headquarters at

Plan of the township of Stroud, 1853, prepared by the Australian Agricultural Company which developed the town site.
ANU ARCHIVES OF BUSINESS AND LABOUR

Carrington (see Port Stephens) in 1851. Quambi House (RNE, formerly Lady Parry's School) built in 1827, Stroud House in c1832. Wheat and maize grown from about 1830. St John's Church (RNE) built by convicts in 1833. Watermill built by company c1840s; converted to steam after sale in 1859. Convent estab in 1836. Decline began in the late 1850s when company's major interests shifted to the northwest of the Liverpool Range and its headquarters to Goonoo Goonoo (see Tamworth). Courthouse (RNE) built c1860.

TAREE   [31°53'S 152°28'E]

Popn: 118(1861), 1539(1911), 5423(1947), 10050(1961), 14697(1981). Name: Aborig *tareebit*, name for local fig tree. Capt James Cook named the Brothers, 3 mountains in area, in 1770. Manning R was northern boundary of huge grant to Aust Agric Co in 1824; was declared northern boundary of settlement by Gov Darling in 1829. First European settler on Manning R was William Wynter in c1831. Private town laid out on portion of original grant in 1854. Presbyterian church built in 1869. Proclaimed a municipality in 1885, a city in 1981. Courthouse (RNE) built in 1897. Rlwy opened in 1913. Developed with growth of dairy industry in the 1930s. Bridge over Manning R built c1940, replacing vehicular ferry. Wingham, 13 km upstream, laid out in 1843, but developed slowly: included in City of Greater Taree in 1981.

TRIAL BAY   [30°54'S 153°02'E]

Named after the *Trial* seized by convicts in Port Jackson and wrecked in bay in 1816, all the convicts perishing from starvation or Aborig attack. Trial Bay surveyed in 1861. Model prison built from 1876 to house prisoners working on breakwater for bay; opened in 1886, closed in 1903. Used as internment camp for Germans held as enemy aliens 1915–18. Minor land boom at Arakoon in 1878. Removable parts of gaol auctioned in 1922: ruins (RNE) preserved. Smoky Cape lighthouse (RNE) opened in

1891. South West Rocks township estab in 1896 when new channel for mouth of Macleay R constructed, became pilots' station in 1902. Petroleum products shipping terminal estab at South West Rocks in 1961.

TWEED HEADS   [28°13'S 153°33'E]

Popn: 712(1911), 3291(1961), 5120(1971), 19269(1981). Tweed R named after river in northern England in 1823 by member of John Oxley's expedition in the *Mermaid*. Township originally called Coolon. Capt James Cook named Point Danger at mouth of river in 1770. Capt Rous explored river in 1828. Military post estab at Point Danger in 1828 to intercept escapees from **Moreton Bay** heading south; abandoned in 1829. Cedar-getters began working valley in 1842; first timber licence for area issued in 1851, industry continued into the 1860s. Tweed R bar treacherous for shipping until breakwater built in 1902. Pilot station estab in 1870, customs house in 1871. Telegraph from **Brisbane** opened in 1875. Township surveyed in 1886. Rlwy from Brisbane opened in 1903, closed in 1961. World's first laser beam lighthouse opened here in 1971. Effectively part of the **Gold Coast** from 1960. Tourism and retirement housing now dominate the area.

WAUCHOPE   [31°28'S 152°45'E]

Popn: 454(1911), 1903(1947), 3645(1981). Named after Capt Wauch's property Wauchope, granted in 1836. Land along Hastings R opened to free settlers in 1830, village of Ennis near present town became busy centre, ships came up river as far as modern Wauchope. First school opened in the 1860s; Ennis post office estab in 1868. Store moved from Ennis to Wauchope in 1870. Wauchope Reserve sold to govt in 1883 and post office moved from Ennis. Sawmill (not the first) built c1890; butter factory, first in Hastings valley, in 1892. Aborig school opened in 1892. Courthouse opened in 1902. Serious bushfire in 1905. In the 1900s govt ordered closure of main Aborig camp in district at Yeppin Yeppin and transfer of occupants to Burnt Bridge near **Kempsey**. Rlwy opened in 1915. Forestry sidings opened in 1947; plywood and veneer works estab as result of growth in local timber industry.

WOLLOMBI   [32°56'S 151°08'E]

Popn: 105(1851), 406(1911), 151(1961). Name: Aborig = 'meeting of the waters'. Great North Rd, first major road from **Sydney** to northern NSW, surveyed in 1825, built through here in 1830. Village surveyed in 1833–34, first sale of allotments in 1838, grew to serve travellers. Importance declined soon after as **Hunter River** steamers replaced much of the road traffic. Site of one of Aust's first soldier settlement schemes c1830: Napoleonic war veterans were granted 40 ha each here on discharge from NSW regiments. Post office (RNE) opened in 1839, part of original telegraph link from Sydney to **Newcastle**. Roman Catholic church (RNE) built 1840–43, destroyed by flood and rebuilt in 1893: Anglican church (RNE) built 1846–49. First school opened in 1860. Courthouse and police station (RNE, now museum) built in 1866. Rust badly affected wheat in district 1863–70 and farmers changed to grazing.

Steam punt across the Manning River at Taree. Travellers on the north coast encountered similar punts at many river crossings along the Pacific Highway. The Manning was not bridged at Taree until 1940. Postcard, c1890.

MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA

WOOLGOOLGA   [30°06'S 153°11'E]

Popn: 406 (1911), 2081 (1981). First European settlement in the 1870s. Village gazetted in 1888 as Woogoolga, name officially changed in 1966. Timber-milling important in late 19th cent. Large Sikh community descended from Punjabi migrants who worked Qld canefields before moving south to grow bananas. Guru Nanak Sikh temple opened in 1970, first in Aust.

YAMBA   [29°27'S 153°21'E]

Popn: 306 (1911), 2528 (1981). Name: Aborig = 'headland' or *yumbah* = 'edible shellfish'. Matthew Flinders anchored near estuary in 1799. Named when town site surveyed in 1861. Settlement often called Woolli in the 1870s and post office known as Clarence Heads until 1885. Escaped convicts reported big river and cedar and *Prince George* sent to investigate c1831. First load of cedar taken out in 1838. Pilot station estab in 1854, house built for pilot and family in 1862 after 8 yrs in tents. Woolli Hotel opened c1862. Work on breakwater at entrance to Clarence River began in 1862. Township gazetted in 1864. Lighthouse built in 1879, replaced in 1956. First recorded oyster exports in 1887, oyster farming with new methods from 1923. Further work on breakwater 1893–1903. Sand mining began in 1934, revived 1968–70. Clarence Harbour works began in 1950, but North Coast Steam Navigation Co ceased in 1954 and only raw sugar, fish and a little timber sent out by sea since. Iluka on opposite side of river proclaimed in 1885, although post office opened in 1876, school in 1879. Fish sent to **Sydney** market by 1887. Mineral sands mining plant estab in 1970–71, large fish processing plant in 1973. Both towns have become resort centres in the 1970s–80s and large-scale developments have been planned.

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