

Take a walk through Montville's history. Along the way you will find markers at points of interest and further information to guide you.

- 1. BUNYA PINES & LAGOON IN RUSSELL FAMILY PARK**—Start at the northern end of the **Russell Family Park** look to you right to see the stand of mature Bunya Pines. Aboriginal people travelled from all over South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales to Baroon Pocket for the annual bunya nut feasts. As you walk back the **lagoon** on you left was an important watering hole on the way to the Bunya feast.
- 2. EASTNOR (BELBURY)**—Walk past the stage and continue to the car park ahead you will see **Eastnor**. In 1893 Henry Smith arrived and opened the first shop and Post Office in Montville which were operated from the building now known as Belbury. Henry Smith as Postmaster was responsible for naming Montville after a town in Connecticut, USA where he had lived as a young man. Henry was also a pioneer of the citrus industry.
- 3. MAIN STREET STREETScape**—Walk past **Camphor Cottage** and turn left onto **Main Street**. As you walk up the hill pause to look at the **artwork** representing Montville's history and natural heritage. The **paving, railings, seats, light posts and sculptures** were commissioned from 1997 by Maroochy Shire Council in cooperation with local business people and funded by a voluntary levy to create a unique streetscape that integrates Montville's cultural and natural heritage.
- 4. LOGGING STUMP**—Cross the street at the zebra crossing and find the **tree stump** with the springboard notch still visible. **Timber getting was Montville's first industry** beginning after the proclamation protecting the Bunya forests was repealed in 1862. Logs were cut and catapulted down shutes such as **Remington's** on Balmoral Road and then hauled by bullocks, floated down the Maroochy River and then onto Brisbane. Timber getting made way for the first selection of land in 1881 by GL Bury however T.P.L. Weitemeyer and his family who were the first to take up residence in 1887.
- 5. MONTVILLE STATE SCHOOL**—Walk up the street towards the school pause to look at the **ceramic tiles** depicting the schools beginnings. **Montville State School** was established as Razorback Provisional School in 1896 and was built by local community members. The first teacher was Miss Emily Palmer. Look for the **school bell** in the wooden bell tower by the front gate. This bell was once owned by Joseph Dixon. Dixon was an early land selector in Flaxton and Buderim. Originally this bell called South Sea Island labourers to their work on the cane fields; now it calls children to play.
- 6. RAZORBACK HOUSE**—Walk towards the lookout on your right you will find **Razorback House** which was the original school building built in 1896. This building underwent renovations and was converted to a teacher's residence when the new State School building was built in 1908 (presently housing the administration office and library). Today **Razorback House** is used by Montville State School students for learning music.
- 7. CENTENARY BRIDGE**—Walking back from Razorback House turn right on to the **Centenary Foot Bridge** opened in 1986. The bridge traverses Razorback Road the first road to connect Montville to Palmwoods and the railway line that reached Palmwoods in 1891.

- 8. MONTVILLE VILLAGE HALL**—began life as a **School of Arts Hall** in 1903 on land donated by Edward Smith (Part of the original selection by GL Bury) and funded by public subscription. Now known as the **Montville Village Hall** this hall was Heritage listed in 2009 and contains an extensive collection of historical photographs. The hall continues to be the centre of community life in the village.
- 9. THE MEMORIAL GATES**—were erected in front of the School Of Arts in 1921, to **commemorate Montville's participation in World War I**. The gates are quite exceptional as they acknowledge not only those who served their country, and died, but also those who volunteered and, were "rejected".
- 10. MEMORIAL FIG TREES**—Walk across towards the **Village Green** and admire the stately canopy of the six **Ficus Bejamina** trees planted to commemorate the fallen in World War I.
- 11. VILLAGE GREEN**—This triangular expanse was initially a reserve **where horses and bullocks** could rest before being loaded up for the next stage of the journey carting timber, produce and supplies up and down the steep and narrow Razorback Road to Palmwoods.
- 12. ST MARYS HALL**—on the Village Green was built by returned servicemen in 1941 from timber milled at the Flaxton Sawmill with later additions using timber from the old Kanaka Barracks on JC Dixon's property in Flaxton. The hall was opened in 1942 and functioned as the Montville sub branch of the RSL until 1978 when the hall was handed over to the Anglican Church of Montville.
- 13. ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**—Walk across **Memorial Close** to find **St Mary's Anglican Church** consecrated in August 1914 just as the world was plunging into World War I.
- 14. GUEST HOUSES**—Montville has a long history of tourism and has been a scenic mountain retreat, with holiday makers flocking to the many well-appointed guesthouses from the early 1900s. Walk across toward the **flagpole** on the **Village Green** and look to where the **Mayfield** complex now stands. This was the site of the **Manjalda Guesthouse** built in 1915 and boasted a swimming pool, tennis court, putting and bowling green. **Manjalda** later became the **DeLisle Gallery** and then became the **Montville Art Gallery** burning down in 1995. The **Mayfield Guest house** was located on the site of the current Montville Bar and Grill.
- 15. MISTY'S**—Look across the road to the three storey building built by Alfred Smith in 1918 as a single storey residence and shop that sold lollies and fancy goods. The second level and the observation deck were added in 1927 and **featured a telescope** with views of the coast.
- 16. TOURISM 1970S TO NOW**—Walk back down **Main Street**, cross at the crossing and walk towards Connemarra Cottage and past the waterwheel on the Montrose building. Both of these buildings are early examples of the resurgence of tourism in the 1980s and 90s. The mountain setting inspired many European style buildings. Stand at the Sculpture of the **Pitsaw** and look across to the **Pottery Centre**. This was the site of the original **Montville Pottery** established in the mid 1960s. **The Pottery** is credited for the blossoming of Montville as a centre for artists and craftspeople. Local business people have retained this essence, transforming the town into the arts and retail hub that Montville is today.

Montville Heritage Walk

Stroll through Montville and learn about our history. You will find that we have a plethora of beautiful historic buildings to enjoy.



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Montville Heritage Walk

