



Bullock teams and shed on seawall.



Ocean View Hotel shortly after it was rebuilt in 1927.

9 Belling Street – #39 and # 41 are examples of typical early cottages of the area. The corner of Morgo and Belling Street was originally the Atherton family home and shop. The Police station on the opposite corner was established in 1903.

10 Golf Club – est. 1923 on the then town common. Views from near the golf club over the estuary show the V-wall, where the Bellinger and Kalang Rivers meet. Below the soundshell a number of piles are visible, which were part of the wharves where the ocean going vessels tied up.

Optional Walk

Atherton Drive – walk past the tennis courts, croquet and sailing clubs. Some of the holiday cottages on the banks of the river are now being removed as leases expire. The original ferry crossing was in this area. Between the railway and road bridges were private boat sheds, which is now the Anchor's Wharf Cafe and Restaurant.

Urunga Museum
Morgo Street, Urunga
Open 10am – 3pm Mon,
Wed & Sat (usually!)
Contact Garry 02 6655 6845



The museum is located in the old School of Arts and Literary Institute, a charming wooden building which was constructed in 1896.

Bellinger Valley Historical Society Museum
33-39 Hyde Street Bellingen. Phone 02 6655 0382



HOW TO GET HERE

Waterfall Way connects the ocean beaches and the rainforest of Coffs Coast with the Great Dividing Range, Armidale and the New England Tableland. Find yourself in Australia's best semitropical climate, midway between Sydney and Brisbane on the sun soaked Coffs Coast.

CAR

Drive the coastal route (Pacific Highway) from Brisbane or Sydney or travel the New England Highway to Armidale and explore the chain of superb national parks bordering Waterfall Way en route. Combine an inland and coastal circuit from Sydney or Brisbane to enjoy this dramatic landscape and altitude change.

AIR

Fly direct to Coffs Coast Airport (20 mins from Urunga) from Sydney, Brisbane or Melbourne.

TRAIN

Countrylink trains daily – stop at Urunga by appointment.

BUS

Sydney-Brisbane buses stop at Urunga. New England Coaches run buses along Waterfall Way between Urunga and Tamworth three times a week.

Visitor Information Centres

Bellingen Shire
Pacific Highway, Urunga
Phone: 02 6655 5711

Coffs Coast
Cnr Pacific Hwy & McLean Street
Phone: 02 6648 4990

Waterfall Way Visitor Centre
Hyde Street, Bellingen
Phone: 02 6655 1522

Dorrigo Visitor Centre
Hickory Street, Dorrigo
Phone: 02 6657 2486

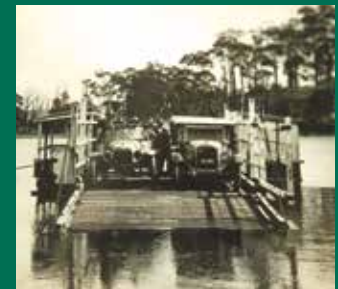
Dorrigo Rainforest Centre
Dome Road, Dorrigo
Phone: 02 6657 2309



Heritage

URUNGA

...and surrounds



w a t e r f a l l w a y



dorrigo • bellingen • urunga

Urunga is a small picturesque coastal town situated on the Kalang River at the mouth of the Bellinger River.

For uncounted years, the Bellinger Valley was inhabited by the Gumbaynggir people who settled around the Urunga estuary, where resources were in abundance. 'Urunga' came from the local Gumbaynggir language, the word 'Urungoo' meaning a long spit of sand.

The first official use of the name 'Bellinger River' was by Land Commissioner for the Macleay, Henry Oates, in July 1840. Soon after, Clement Hodgkinson, government surveyor, led a small exploration party to the area, naming the smaller of the two rivers the 'Odalberrie' (Kalang).

In 1840 William Miles, a stockman from Kempsey, recognised the rich potential of the cedar, which abounded in the area. Cedar cutters moved into the area, cutting the trees and waiting for the floods to move the trunks down to the river mouth.



Wharfs at Urunga.



Corner of Morgo and Belling Streets, (now Atherton Court).



View of Urunga township from Flagstaff Hill.

Timber mills were constructed and the logs were delivered to the various depots along the river banks by bullock teams, then moved to the various mills by numerous paddle wheel Droghers. The timber was transported from the mills to the wharfs at Urunga to be shipped to Sydney. The cutters were followed by farmers who, recognising the rich potential of the river valley's alluvial soils, grew maize and grazed dairy cattle.

By 1868 a pilot station had been built at Urunga (previously known



as Bellinger Heads) to help the sailing ships across the bar and up the river. The first steam tug arrived on the river in the 1880s. The mouth to the river was always dangerous and inevitably it saw a number of dramatic shipwrecks including the Violet Doepel. The break walls began construction in 1892 but were never completed because of cost overruns and budget constraints. The pilot service continued until 1933, when the tug 'Repton' was wrecked on the break wall.



Sawmills at Repton.

The construction of the North Coast railway line, which reached Urunga in 1923, ended the shipping trade in the area. The road traffic

bridge, completed in 1928, replaced the ferry operating over the South Arm (Kalang) River.

Once a thriving sea port, the past 130 years has seen Urunga survive much, as it has grown with the changes in its industry, culture and society. The Urunga of today offers a glimpse of its past with some of the old buildings that still remain.



Drogher on the Kalang River, 1925.



Urunga's first Post Office.



Urunga Belling Motor Launch, 1910.

Urunga Heritage Walk – Points of Interest

- 1 Urunga Museum** – housed in the original School of Arts building built in 1896.
- 2 Ocean View Hotel** – rebuilt in 1927 after a fire destroyed the original which was built in 1895.
- 3 Boardwalk** – rebuilt several times.
- 4 Flagstaff Hill** – a walkway leads up to a lookout from Urunga Heads Holiday Park, past the Pilot House, built around 1876. It is now privately owned.
- 5 South Street** – #28 & #30 are believed to have been moved from Valla gold mine when it closed. #32 is typical of original beach homes.
- 6 Railway Station** – original timber station building has been replaced in recent years.
- 7 Bonville Street** – #58 was site of first Anglican Church. #47 was an early guest house. Library was originally tennis courts and #26 was a bank.
- 8 Corner Bonville & Bowra Streets** – War Memorial. Eastern corner was a café and roller skating rink. Urunga Public School was established in 1889 on this site.