



TRAIL 3

Publicans Trail

WEST END CEMETERY TRAILS



**Heritage
Trails**
of Townsville

INTRODUCTION

A pub-crawl through the cemetery

Some of the earliest businesses to be established in Townsville were pubs and hotels where people from a wide range of backgrounds would socialise, seek employment and use the accommodation in the upstairs rooms. Often, pubs and hotels were the first point of residence prior to beginning a new life in Townsville.

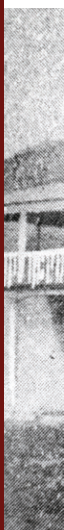
Many of Townsville's original pubs and hotels still stand today and it is these buildings, along with the characters that passed through their doors, that contribute to Townsville's unique appearance and character.

CEMETERY TRAILS

This booklet is the third in a series of trails that have been produced to enable visitors at the West End Cemetery to undertake self guided walks. Projects such as this provide the community with a better understanding of the city's rich history, who the people were and what life was like.

The focus of this brochure concerns the lives of Townsville's publicans and recognises the contribution of Townsville's past publicans to the development of the city in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Among the publicans recognised in this brochure are Andrew Ball, the Honourable John Deane and Charles Wyatt.

It is the endeavour of Townsville City Council to undertake gradual conservation of the cemetery. This work will be undertaken according to the recommendations in the West End Cemetery Conservation Strategy completed in 1996.



WELCOME TO TOWNSVILLE'S WEST END CEMETERY

From its establishment in 1864, Townsville serviced the nearby mining and pastoral industries, quickly developing into a 'working man's town' with a somewhat transient population. The expansion of the town brought about the establishment of a variety of services and businesses to cater for the requirements of the city.

Amongst the earliest businesses established were pubs and hotels, where people from all walks of life would gather to socialise, drink and seek accommodation and employment. Although these pubs and hotels were amongst Townsville's first buildings, many still stand in Townsville to this day, providing Townsville's streetscapes with a unique historic character unrivalled in many other areas of Queensland.

The West End Cemetery 'Publican's Trail' is a self-guided trail, which endeavours to provide a colourful insight into the life and times of Townsville's past publicans and the pubs and hotels which they managed. This self guided walk visits the graves of nine publicans, providing a glimpse into their characters and contributions to the prosperity of Townsville.

The trail also provides a unique opportunity to experience the history associated with Townsville's oldest cemetery, which operated as the city's general cemetery between 1866 and 1902. Although officially closed in 1930, burials continue within the cemetery in prepurchased family owned plots.



Criterion Hotel (date unknown)



Top-Left: Lowth's Hotel Bottom-Left: Grave of Thomas Lowth Right: Thomas Lowth

1 THOMAS (TOM) LOWTH (DIED 1923)

Thomas Lowth was born in Dublin and arrived in Australia in 1876. Following in his father's footsteps, Thomas joined the Queensland Police Service upon arriving in Brisbane. During his service with the police, Thomas was posted to many Queensland towns, including Townsville and Charters Towers. He married Margaret Smith, a hotelkeeper's daughter, in 1882.

Upon resigning from the police service, Thomas operated his own grocer business in Flinders Street. In 1885, he entered hotel keeping, taking over the licence of the Railway Hotel in Flinders Street West. The following year he replaced the single-storey hotel with an attractive two-storey building. He transferred the title in 1888 and moved to the Australian Hotel in Palmer Street.

Thomas abandoned hotel keeping a year later to take up a position on the local council, working as an Inspector of Traffic. It wasn't until 1894 that Thomas re-entered the hotel trade, acquiring the Newmarket Hotel licence.

He purchased an allotment on the corner of Flinders Street and Stanley Street and proceeded to erect his own two-storey hotel in 1897. Advertised across the State as 'a home in the east for those from the west', the new Lowth's Hotel became popular, due largely to Thomas's friendly and entertaining manner.

(1829-1891)

James Enright was born in Limerick, Ireland in 1829. Arriving in Melbourne in 1851, James was among the earliest contractors on the Bendigo and Ballarat gold fields. From Victoria, he travelled to the newly opened gold fields in New South Wales, including the famous Lambing Flat, renowned for wild riots between Europeans and Chinese diggers over mining claims.

During his time in NSW James participated in farming. However, the lure of gold saw him return to prospect in New Zealand. In 1876 he returned to Australia where he travelled to Queensland and worked the Palmer River, Charters Towers, Etheridge and Croydon gold fields.

James opened the Townsville Post Office Hotel (located in Wickham Street) in 1878. He held the licence for 10 months before transferring it to his son, Thomas.

Wanderlust was in James' blood and on an expedition to the Mitchell and Walsh Rivers in late 1889, he became severely ill with a tropical disease and nearly lost his life.

A reputed violent man when drunk, James died in January 1891 at his son-in-law's hotel, The Criterion.



Grave of James and Thomas Enright

(1856-1926)

Son of James Enright, Thomas was a second generation hotel keeper, born on the gold fields of Bendigo, Victoria, in 1856. The Enright family travelled to Queensland in 1876 with Thomas joining his father as a contractor on the North Queensland gold fields before moving with his family to Townsville around 1878.

Thomas was operating a store when he took over the licence of the Post Office Hotel from his father in 1879, beginning his long career as a publican. In 1881, he helped construct a handsome new Tattersall's Hotel for his brother-in-law, Daniel McGrath. The McGrath and Enright families could have formed a hotelier's dynasty when Thomas married Daniel's sister, Margaret and Daniel married Thomas's sister, Mary during 1882.

With the aid of his father, Thomas erected a two-storey hotel along Flinders Street West called the Metropolitan in 1885, but he did not stay on as publican. His short stint was largely due to the death of his wife and their daughter in 1885, which left him to raise their son alone.

Thomas took over Tattersall's in 1886. The hotel prospered due to its proximity to the inner harbour wharves and its workers. He replaced the timber building with the brick hotel known today as Molly Malones.

Thomas was enthusiastic and committed to local civic affairs, serving as Alderman for three years and Mayor in 1899. He was a staunch supporter of the Townsville Turf Club and owned several race-winning horses.



4 ANDREW BALL

(1832-1894)

Andrew Ball was an Irishman who led the exploration party that discovered the site on which the settlement of Townsville was to be established. At the time of the discovery Ball was employed by Black and Co as the manager of Woodstock Station.

A charming and popular early pioneer, Ball remained in the town he helped to develop. In 1877 he married widow Rose O'Neill and took over his wife's Exchange Hotel licence. His popularity and standing in the district proved advantageous, with his hotel becoming a popular place for western travellers.

Following a fire that destroyed the Exchange in 1881, the Ball's rebuilt the hotel in 1882, after which time it was leased.

Not especially active in civic affairs, Ball preferred to invest in or conduct Townsville businesses and companies. In 1867 he became a shareholder in the Cleveland Bay Express Newspaper Company, while in 1869 he was a partner in Ball and Grimaldi, auctioneers and agents, also being appointed an Assessor (valuer) for the Municipality of Townsville. Ball is also registered as being a shareholder in Townsville Foundry Shipbuilding Co. and Townsville Land and Investments in 1884, while in 1888 he was a shareholder in the Idalia Land Company.



Grave of Andrew Ball



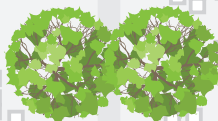
CHURCH STREET

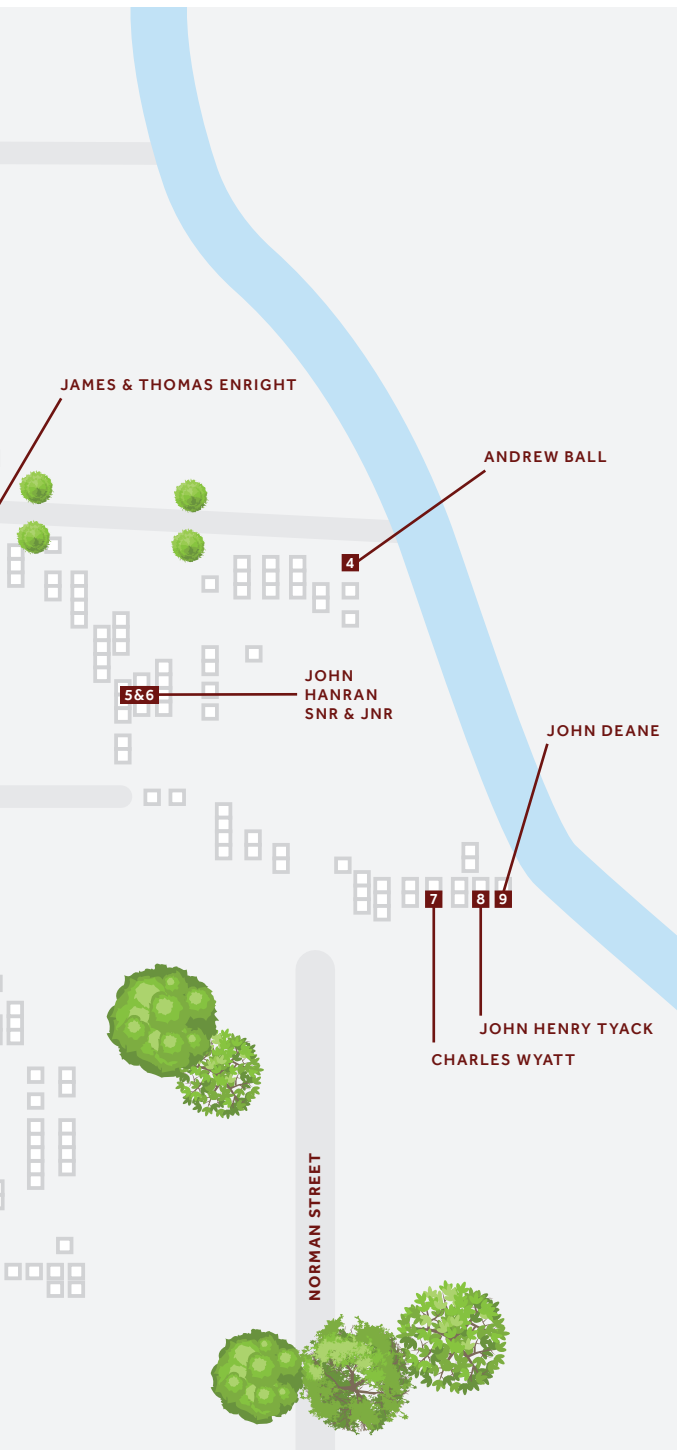
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THOMAS LOWTH

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ENTRY





5 JOHN HANRAN SNR

(1824-1895)

John Hanran was just 10 years old when he arrived in Australia aboard the convict transport Norfolk in 1835, accompanied by his parents and siblings. His father was a soldier assigned to escort prisoners bound for Van Dieman's Land. The Hanran family settled in the Sydney area, where at age 24 John met and married Jane Ogle.

Both he and his bride relocated to Ipswich where John established a bootmaker's shop, with the success of the business allowing him to invest in property. In 1855, John entered the hotel industry with the acquisition of the North Star Hotel licence, which he held for 15 years. Under his guidance the North Star, also the terminus for the Brisbane Cobb & Co coach service, flourished.

In 1870 John relocated his family of seven to Townsville where his brother, Patrick Francis, had been elected Mayor. Unofficially, John occupied the Criterion Hotel from 1870, and officially took over the licence from 1873 until 1879. During this time, the Criterion became the terminus for Cobb & Co.

He took over the licence of the Commercial Hotel from his son John Jnr in 1889 and continued trading until the following year.



6 JOHN HANRAN JNR

(1854-1905)

John Hanran Jnr was born in Ipswich in 1854, and was the third son of John and Jane Hanran (nee Ogle). He was 16 when his family moved to Townsville in 1870. Initially he worked as an apprentice engineer on the railways, before being groomed for the hotel industry.

When his father purchased the Commercial Hotel in 1876 (known today as the Mad Cow), it was immediately leased to John Jnr. The Hanran's hotel again benefited from an association with the famous Cobb & Co coach service when the terminus was relocated from the Criterion to an office next to the Commercial in 1878.

John Jnr, like his father, had a love for thoroughbred horses and horse racing and was said to be a 'walking stud book'. He was Secretary and Handicapper for the Townsville Turf Club and in turn his hotel was well patronized by racing enthusiasts.

John Jnr and his father replaced the rundown timber Commercial Hotel with a fine two-storey brick hotel and adjoining furniture showroom in 1886. He held the licence for the hotel until 1889 when he transferred it to his father.



*Grave of John Hanran Snr
& John Hanran Jnr*

Commercial Hotel





Herbert Hotel

7

CHARLES WYATT

(1844/5-1904)

One of Townsville's longest serving publicans, Charles Wyatt, arrived in North Queensland from New South Wales in 1861. He initially worked out of Bowen as a mail contractor and carrier, embarking on a number of exciting adventures whilst travelling throughout North Queensland.

After marrying his wife, Eliza, in 1870 the couple settled down in Townsville. Charles worked as a storeman for the Clifton and Aplin firm, gaining a reputation as a strong man who few could equal.

The Wyatt's were licensees of the Court House Hotel (now known as the Herbert Hotel) from 1887 to 1907. Situated across from the old Magistrate's Court, the hotel prospered under Charles' guidance.

Crippled by rheumatism in the last few years of his life, Eliza managed the hotel. After his death in 1904, the licence passed to Eliza and then on to her son-in-law.

Charles was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the Townsville Turf Club and the Show Society. He initiated many of the early improvements to the Townsville Show Grounds.

8 JOHN HENRY TYACK

(1860-1913)

John Henry Tyack was a prominent early 20th Century Townsville citizen. When he died from heart complications in 1913, his funeral procession was the longest the town had seen.

Born in Falmouth, England, in 1860, John travelled to Queensland in 1881. Eventually settling in Charters Towers, he gained employment with the merchant firm Samuel Allen & Sons, who specialised in insurance, shipping and carrying.

Upon relocating to Townsville, John acquired the property and licence to the Queen's Hotel, located on the corner of The Strand and Wickham Street in 1899. With plans to extend the existing hotel, John purchased the adjoining allotment in 1901 thus acquiring a 60m frontage to The Strand. John built in stages, allowing him to continue trade, and by 1912 the hotel was imposing.

From 1864 through to 1914, the Queen's Hotel was the only Townsville hotel reputed as a 'grand hotel' visited by governors, politicians and other dignitaries.

As a Council Alderman from 1906 to 1913, and Mayor in 1912, John was instrumental in the beautification of the hotel's surrounding area, including the erection of a lovely bandstand in Anzac Park.

His untimely death in 1913 meant he never saw the completion of the Bandstand, nor the Hotel.

Grave of John Henry Tyack



Queens Hotel



9 HON. JOHN DEANE

(1842-1913)

John Deane was an Irishman who migrated to Queensland in 1863 in search of gold. Arriving in Rockhampton, John travelled to the Peak Downs gold fields where he profited as a storekeeper and carrier rather than as a prospector. After three years John moved to the newly opened Cape River gold diggings but found the prospecting there unfavourable.

Upon relocating to Townsville in 1869, John opened a new single storey timber hotel on the corner of Flinders and Denham Streets, naming it The Townsville. He also engaged in a butchering business.

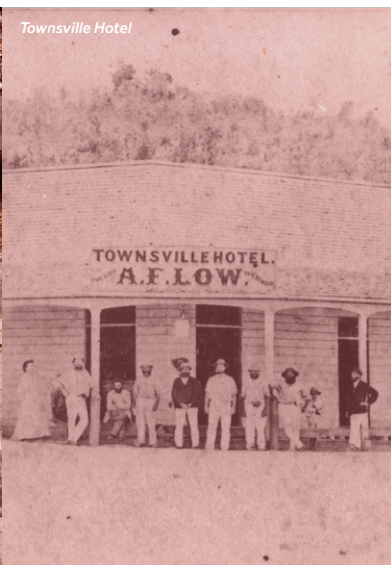
Still hoping to 'strike it rich', John quit the hotel business in 1873 and was one of the first on the Ravenswood goldfields. Reputed to be a mechanical genius, he erected a crushing mill there, and later moved it to the fields at Charters Towers. In Charters Towers he established the first foundry and Pyrites Works – for the treatment of tailings. He later turned his attention to pastoral pursuits and was responsible for initiating the Burdekin Meat Export Company.

In Charters Towers and in Townsville, John took a keen interest in civic affairs, serving on many political and community boards and committees. He was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1889, which he continued to serve until his death.

The Hon. John Deane died in his family home on Melton Hill in 1913.



Grave of John Deane



Townsville Hotel

EXISTING PUBS

Existing pubs and hotels mentioned in this brochure.



Australian Hotel (Palmer St)



Exchange Hotel (Flinders St East)



*Molly Malones
(former Tattersall's Hotel, Flinders St East)*



Newmarket Hotel (Flinders St West)



Mad Cow Tavern (former Commercial Hotel then Lang's Hotel, Flinders St East)



The conservation of the West End Cemetery is a long-term project supported by Townsville City Council and the National Trust of Queensland. Several volunteers repair and restore monuments and infrastructure in the cemetery grounds and have made major contributions to the conservation of this important heritage site.

You can contribute to the conservation of the West End Cemetery by assisting the volunteers that work at the cemetery. For more information contact Council on 13 48 10 or visit townsville.qld.gov.au.



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TOURS & TRAILS
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