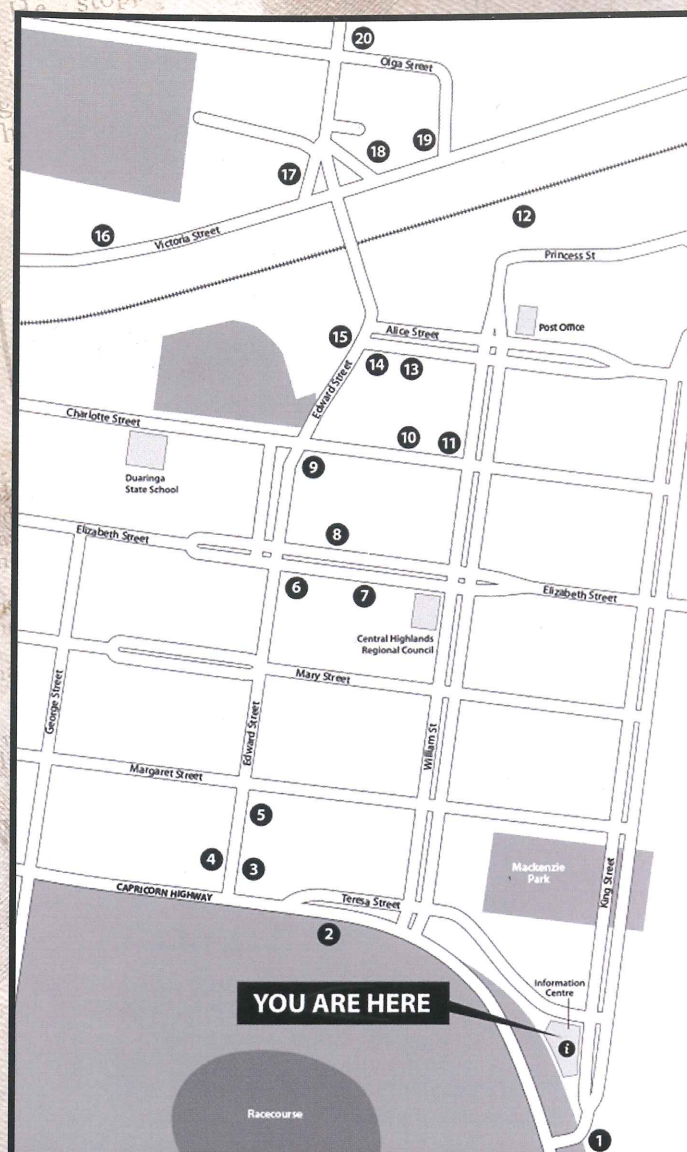


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Duaringa Historic Trail

The small picturesque town of Duaringa was established late in the 19th century as a railway town. It sits on the Capricorn Highway with roads heading north, south, east and west of it.

As you explore, you will see some of the historic buildings from the town's heyday still stand today, with some having become private residences, like the local picture theatre.

The town gives you the feeling of being at home, with its old country charm and some modern additions that enhance its humble beauty.

We hope you enjoy our Historic Trail.

Provided for your information by:
Duaringa Historical and Tourism Association Inc.



1. Woodman's Sawmill

In 1959 Eddie and Dave Woodman commenced sawmilling production in Duaringa after they purchased a small quantity of spotted gum hardwood at a public auction from the Department of Forestry in 1958.

2. Race Course

Duaringa had an active horse racing club which organised local race meetings. The first annual race meeting was held on the 26th May, 1883.

3. Sunshine Café

This modest little building was at one time the only café on the road from Rockhampton to Emerald. It was advertised as having a great and prosperous future. The building had a public dining room shop space and private dining room and kitchen. The kitchen had an Ice Master Fridge and everything a small-town café needed to thrive.

4. Service Station

Rae Anderson started the first Service Station in Duaringa in 1952. It was operated as the Plume Service Station and has had a number of owners and changes over the years.

5. Well Site – Margaret Street

It would appear from minutes from the Duaringa Divisional Board that the Well could have been sunk before the Board came into being in 1881. Duaringa was established in 1876.

6. Roman Catholic Church

St Kevin's Roman Catholic Church was built in Duaringa and opened and blessed by Bishop J. Higgins in September, 1902. It was the first church to be built in the town.

7. Municipal Library

The Duaringa Municipal Library building was opened in October, 1977.

8. Anglican Church

St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church was dedicated in 1904 by Bishop Dawes of Rockhampton. It remained virtually unchanged from how it was built until 2015 when it was demolished and removed following a severe storm.

9. Shire Council Office

As the Duaringa area progressed and settlement increased the Local Government Authority established the Duaringa Divisional Board in the year of 1881. The name was changed to Duaringa Shire Council in 1903.

10. Bakery – Charlotte Street

The first bakery at Duaringa was a combined bakery, storeroom and garage which was burnt down in 1937. The bakery at this site was built after the fire. In 1962 Vince Lester, who became the State Member for Peak Downs, started his business life here.

11. Post Office

The original Post Office was opened as the Colo Post Office on the 10th November, 1875. It was renamed the following month to the town's new name of Duaringa.

12. Railway Station

The Railway line from Boolburra to Duaringa was opened on 28th March, 1876 after the bridge was built over the Dawson River. A free excursion for people to travel by train from Rockhampton to Duaringa was organised to mark the occasion.

13. Picture Theatre & Shop

The original building was owned by Mary Anne Fletcher, a widow. She started small with a case of tomatoes. Over time more goods were added. The Regal Palace Picture Theatre was erected in 1925.

14. Butcher Shop

The first Butcher Shop in the town was built at the corner of Alice and Edward Streets. It was owned by Ned Dempsey and their slaughter yards were located off the Old Duaringa-Bauhinia Road just south-west of the town.

15. CWA Hall

The Duaringa CWA was formed in 1925 and met at the Hotel for seven years until this building was opened in 1932.

16. Provisional School

The provisional school, a bark hut 16' x 12' was erected on the site at the corner of George and Victoria Streets which had been surveyed for this purpose. The school was opened on the 3rd June, 1879.

17. Duaringa Hotel

The hotel was originally built near the Dawson River when the town of Duaringa was originally closer to the river. With the development of the railway line, it was decided that they would move the Hotel to where it is now situated.

18. Gregg's General Store

The first general store in Duaringa was opened by Mr John Beattie after he moved from Gainsford. The store was operated by Mr and Mrs W. Gregg for many years.

19. Blacksmith – Victoria Street

William Anderson was born in 1881 in Aramac. William and his wife, Bridget Alice moved to Duaringa and built a house and Blacksmith Shop in Victoria Street on allotment 1 of section 25.

20. Uniting Church

On the 5th November, 1907 the first Trustees were appointed to have erected a Methodist Church. The building was completed and was debt free when it opened in 1907. At the time of printing this pamphlet the building is no longer able to be used for services.