

## The Township

The township of Tweed Heads began with only a few basic huts prior to 1865. Several other small cottages were built during the 1870's following the establishment of a Pilot Station and residency. A school was built at Pt. Danger in 1876, and a Post Officer appointed in 1878. When the School of Arts building was built in 1892 the population of 'Cooloon' was 100. 'Cooloon', which is an Aboriginal name for native fig or Quandong, was the official name for Tweed Heads up until 1965.

By 1899 Tweed Heads, as it was commonly called, was becoming a popular seaside resort and was frequented by visitors from Southport and Brisbane. By 1915 the population was approximately 1000, with 220 buildings and the town covered an area of 600 acres. Today the population of Tweed Heads and Coolangatta is rapidly increasing as many people, especially from southern areas, move into the area. The Tweed has become a popular retirement town with many amenities for retirees.

## Popular Sports and Activities

Horse racing became popular in the area in 1888 when the first meeting of the Tweed Jockey Club was held. Races were held periodically at Tweed Heads, along the course, which was along the beach at Kirra. The first surf club was formed in 1908 at Greenmount and the club house built in 1911.

Dances were popular at a number of venues in the early 1900's including Jazz Land in Coolangatta, The Empire Dance Palace in the

Empire Theatre at Tweed Heads and the Capital Theatre in Coolangatta.

A number of hotels were also very popular during this period including the Queensland Hotel, situated between Boat Harbour and Greenmount Beach, and the Hotel Tweed which was built on the Bay. The Hotel Tweed had a lookout on top which was used as a shark tower. Other popular hotels were the Hotel Coolangatta along the beachfront at Coolangatta, and the Pacifique Hotel at Tweed Heads.



*Tweed Heads 1909. Bathers in their woollen swimming costumes. Change huts in background.*

**References:** Information compiled from historical publications available from Tweed Shire Council Libraries

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Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained herein is correct. In the case of any errors noted please contact 02 6674 9500

# BOAT HARBOUR TO POINT DANGER - RAINBOW BAY IN HISTORIC TWEED/COOLANGATTA



## STAY TRIM & KEEP FIT WITH EASY EXERCISE

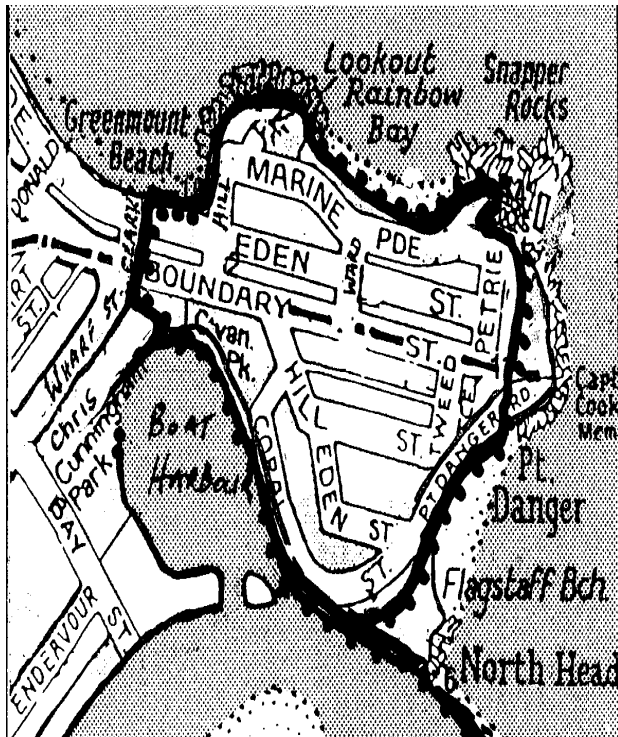
The series of brochures on Historic Walks of Tweed Shire are for information purposes only. Please consult your doctor or health professional before undertaking any historical walk to ensure the activity is appropriate for you.

## BOAT HARBOUR TO POINT DANGER – RAINBOW BAY

**GRADE:** Medium

**DISTANCE:** 3.8kms (return)

**Route:** Start Chris Cunningham Park. Follow



harbour shoreline to stairs leading up to Point Danger Lookout, then around and down the path past Snapper Rocks to Rainbow Bay and Greenmount Beach and back to Chris Cunningham Park.

### Points of Interest

**1. Chris Cunningham Recreation Park beside Boat Harbour.** Parking in Bay Street adjacent to park and Tweed Centro Shopping Centre. Picnic area, toilets, water, swimming, aquatic sports.

**2. Twin Towns Services Club.**

**3. Grassland foreshore area** – site of the old Border Caravan Park and near the site of old the Queensland Hotel - one of the main buildings situated between Boat Harbour and Greenmount Beach during early 1900's.

**4. Boyd's Family Plaque** - in memory of the Boyd family members who drowned in 1859 when the schooner 'Ebenezer' was wrecked..

**5. Spur Wall** – constructed from the old coal Wharf in 1914.

**6. Views of entrance to the Tweed River,** the Tweed bar and up the river to the hills and **Mt. Warning/Wollumbin.**

**7. North and south Breakwater Walls** - Constructed in 1891.

**8. Plaque to commemorate the completion of Tweed Heads Harbour Works,** 17<sup>th</sup> February 1965. (Department of Public Works, NSW)

**9. Steps to cliff top and Point Danger** lookout. Whales can often be seen here during migration seasons – May to September.

**10. Captain Cook Memorial Lighthouse** – the geographic border of NSW and Queensland, (latitude 28°10'S; longitude 153°33'E). Built 1970 to commemorate the Bi-Centenary of Cook's voyage. Total cost \$180,000.

**11. Volunteer Marine Rescue Point Danger** – is housed within the lighthouse building. The Rescue Service operates around the clock, 365 days a year and deals with an average of 200 boating rescues each year. The souvenir shop is open to the public.

**12. Walk of Remembrance.** A series of plaques honouring the 41 allied naval and merchant ships which were sunk off the Australian coast by enemy action from 1938-1945 in which hundreds of service personnel and merchant seamen were killed.

**13. View of Jetty** – where sand is pumped away from the mouth of the Tweed River to prevent build-up across the notorious river bar.

**14. Pt. Danger Reserve** – Picnic grounds, water, seating and electric BBQs.

**15. Old Forts** built early 1900's – views to Surfers Paradise.

**16. Site of the once popular 'Snapper Rocks Sea Baths'** – built in 1956.

**17. Rainbow Bay.** This is the safest Gold Coast beach due to its northerly facing aspect. In summer dolphins can be seen swimming in the area. Picnic tables, water, electric BBQ's.

**18. Greenmount Surf Life Saving Club, Coolangatta** – first surf life saving club to be formed in the area in 1908. The first club house was built in 1911.

### HISTORY

#### Discovery

The first recorded history of the area was made by Captain James Cook in 1770, sighting in his journal the impressive landmarks of Point Danger and Mt. Warning/Wollumbin. In 1823 John Oxley followed, naming the river after the Scottish River Tweed, which flows between England and Scotland. Five years later Henry Rous explored the area further reporting back about the lush valleys and heavily timbered hills. In 1844 the first cedar-getters arrived in the Tweed Valley.

#### Harbour and River Works

When the river was surveyed in 1884, the position of the bar was constantly changing, creating hazardous conditions to vessels entering and leaving the river. Works commenced in 1891 to improve conditions and safety for shipping in the area. The harbour works began in 1899. The Back Channel into the harbour was blocked off. The present spur wall was constructed from the old coal wharf in 1914.