

Tropical
ART DECO



Self Guided Walk

Discover art deco and historical buildings of interest
on the Cassowary Coast



1927

MYLONAS ' BUILDING

MAREE
total fashion look...



QUE MAREE
for the total fashion look...



Mylonas Building, Tully



Art deco identifies the decorative style which began in the early 1900s however came to life at the international exposition of modern decorative and industrial arts, held in Paris in 1925. Art deco symbolised the new spirit of the early 20th century, characterising power and speed such as lightning flashes and symbols of freedom and the dawn of a new age.

The origin of art deco on the Cassowary Coast is the result of the devastating cyclone of 1918 which destroyed much of the area. Almost all buildings in the Innisfail district were destroyed, leaving only buildings constructed of reinforced concrete. This led to the rebuilding of most of the business districts throughout the region in this material due to its durability.

These buildings were built in the art deco style which was globally popular at the time representing the future, modernism and the coming machine age. Many of the buildings deviate from traditional art deco in that they have pitched roofs and a local adaptation to the tropical climate of the region.





1. Blue Bird Café

38 Rankin Street, Innisfail

The Blue Bird Café was constructed as a café in the 1920s which during the Mano Nera era in Far North Queensland, was run by Greeks. It was a popular upmarket meeting place where farmers and their families had lunch when they came to town to do business. Upstairs was a dance hall and wedding reception venue. The building is notable for its distinctive styling, reflective of the interwar modernist style and eclectic details. The building has a crenulated parapet with the words 'Blue Bird Café' in relief. The Moorish arch balconies are supported by Tuscan columns with semicircular arched windows on the first floor.



2. Former Queensland National Bank Building

39 Rankin Street, Innisfail

The bank was established in Brisbane in 1872. It opened a branch at Geraldton (Innisfail's former name) on 20 February 1886. This property in Rankin Street was purchased for 400 pounds, and a timber bank and residence was erected on the site. This building is a two storeyed reinforced concrete building with a symmetrical façade and is of very simple interwar modernist style with giant fluted pilasters and small openings. The building has a flat parapet, aluminium hopper windows and cantilever concrete shades over the door and windows.



3. Robertson Bros Building

42-44 Rankin Street, Innisfail

The Robertson Bros Building is one of the concrete buildings built during the prosperous 1920s and 1930s. Brothers Peter and JT (James) Robertson were business partners and opened their second store on Rankin Street in 1937. The building has two storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of interwar modernist style. The parapet is divided into three bays with a raised central curved pediment and the words 'Established 1916 Robertson Bros' in relief. The building has classical semicircular arched windows on the first floor and a suspended awning.



4. Former National Bank of Australasia

56 Rankin Street

This is another one of the concrete construction buildings built during the prosperous boom in the 1920s and 1930s. The parapet was originally embossed with the name 'National Bank of Australasia Limited', but has since been removed. The building is two storeyed and of reinforced concrete construction with a symmetrical façade and small openings. In the interwar modernist style, the building has a flat parapet with a very simple ornament. The building has sliding windows with shades between low relief pilasters on the parapet and a suspended awning.

5. Johnstone Shire Hall

70 Rankin Street, Innisfail

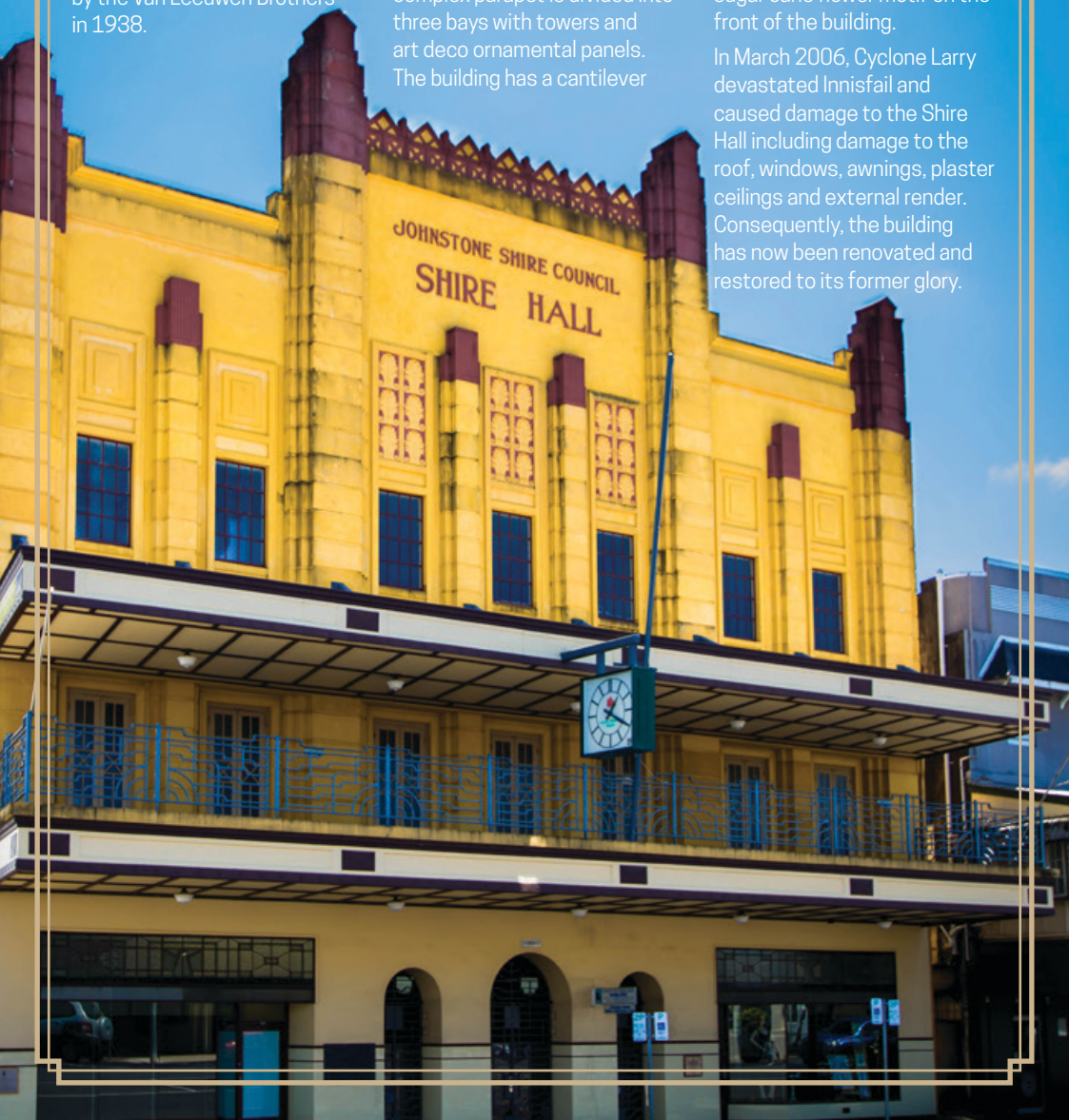
The Johnstone Shire Hall was designed by the architectural partners Hill and Taylor who were prominent local architects in North Queensland between World War I and World War II. The building was constructed by the Van Leeuwen Brothers in 1938.

Over the years the Johnstone Shire has had four Shire Halls, three of which have burned to the ground. This building comprises three storeys and a basement and is of reinforced concrete construction. It has a notable and distinctive elaborate symmetrical façade and is of the interwar modernist style. The building's tall, complex parapet is divided into three bays with towers and art deco ornamental panels. The building has a cantilever

canopy with an original art deco ornament.

The first floor balcony has a wrought iron balustrade and the building has its original semicircular arched street level openings with art deco leadlight panels. In the foyer, notice the decorative ceiling, leadlight panels above the doors and terrazzo tiled floor. Note the sugar cane flower motif on the front of the building.

In March 2006, Cyclone Larry devastated Innisfail and caused damage to the Shire Hall including damage to the roof, windows, awnings, plaster ceilings and external render. Consequently, the building has now been renovated and restored to its former glory.





Queens Hotel 1940, courtesy of Historical Society

6. Queens Hotel

74-78 Rankin Street, Innisfail

The Queens Hotel was built by the Van Leeuwen Brothers in the 1926. The hotel was owned by Mr See Poy in the 1950s who was a Chinese Australian storekeeper. During this time, the hotel was regarded as Innisfail's Queen Hotel and one of the upmarket establishments of the town. The building comprises three storeys and a basement and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of interwar modernist style with a flat parapet containing a central art deco ornament. The building has a curved modernist balcony, casement windows and corrugated iron window shades on the second floor.



7. Duffin House/ Arcidiacono House

41 Rankin Street, Innisfail

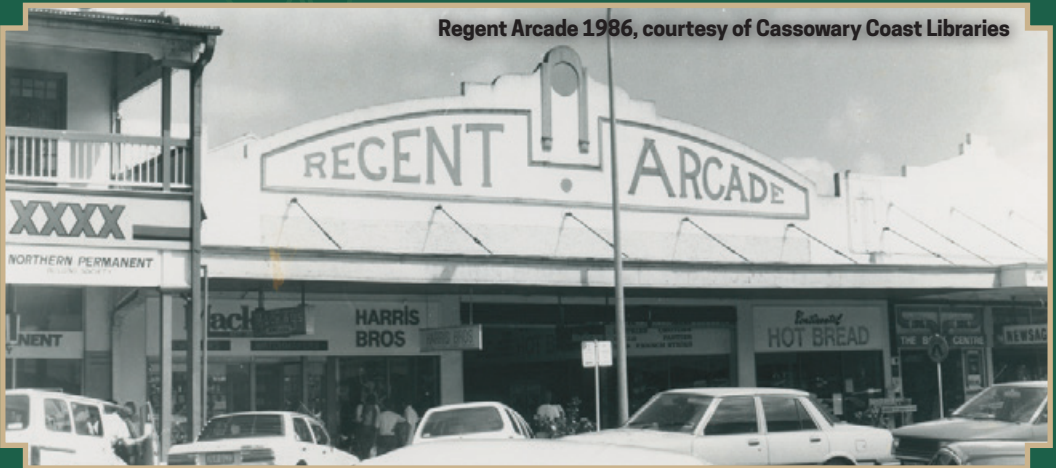
The building was named 'Duffin House' and was completed in 1941.

On 11 April 1950 the property was purchased by Oraziano Arcidiacono and renamed 'Arcidiacono House'.

This is a large prominent building of the Spanish Mission art deco style, inspired by the 1920s American art deco movement. It comprises three storeys and a basement and is of reinforced concrete construction with a symmetrical façade. The building has a flat parapet with a notable art deco ornament as a central feature.



Regent Arcade 1986, courtesy of Cassowary Coast Libraries



8. Regent Arcade

26-32 Edith Street, Innisfail

The Regent Theatre was the town's main entertainment place for stage plays, concerts and cinema and was opened in 1930. The building was converted into an arcade in 1977. Further refurbishment was completed in July 1992.

The building has a symmetrical façade and is of interwar modernist style, with an elaborate arched parapet containing an art deco ornament and the words 'Regent Arcade' in relief. The building has its original suspended awning. The building was refurbished in 1992 and the original lettering for the 'Theatre' was altered to reflect the building's use as an arcade.

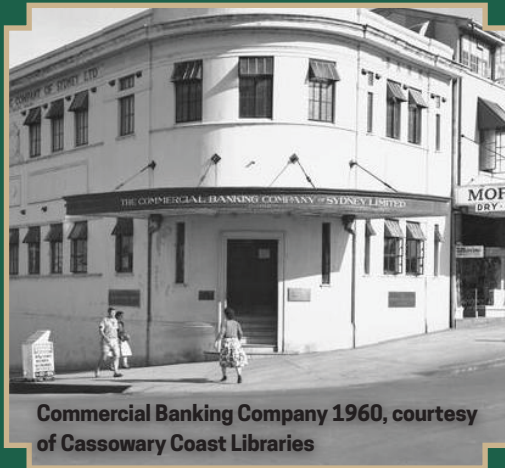
9. White Horse Hotel

69 – 73 Edith Street, Innisfail

The White Horse Hotel was established in 1902 and served as a refuge on top of the Owen and Edith Street hill in the 'Big Flood' of 1913 where the homeless would climb over the neighbouring awnings to reach the hotel and seek food and shelter. The hotel was severely damaged in the 1918 cyclone. A little white horse statue symbolising the name of the hotel was found during the cleanup and was incorporated in the building's façade during rebuilding.

The building has a concrete façade and verandah frontage with a very distinctive art deco ornament on paired posts, valancing and balustrades and an elaborate façade addressing the intersection.

Rankin Street 1940s, courtesy of John Oxley Library



Commercial Banking Company 1960, courtesy of Cassowary Coast Libraries



11. Masonic Temple

52 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail

There was a significant amount of Freemasons amongst the settlers in the region to establish the temple, erected in 1940. It has a symmetrical façade with small height windows and is of interwar modernist style. The building has an art deco ornament on the stepped parapet and a central panel with a circular window. There is a suspended awning above the door and the entrance is flanked by two lamps on Corinthian columns. There is a notable art deco concrete fence.

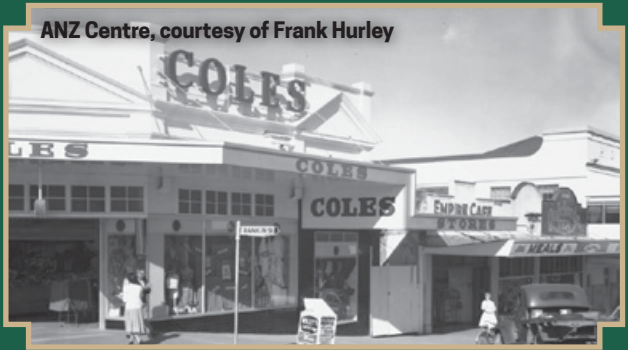
A unique feature of this building is that when the lights on the two pillars in front of the entrance are turned on, they shine through the stained glass window and depict the letters GOD on the ceiling inside the upper room.

10. Former National Bank/ Commercial Banking Company

17 Edith Street, Innisfail

This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

This building comprises two storeys and a basement and is made of reinforced concrete. It has a curved façade addressing the intersection and is of interwar modernist style. The building has a flat parapet raised at the intersection with minimal ornament and casement windows with large window shades on the first floor with suspended awnings at three levels. The original portico entrance on the corner has been blocked and replaced by a display window.



OTHER HERITAGE SITES OF

12. Pioneers of the Sugar Industry Monument

Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail

The Canecutter's Memorial was erected in 1959 by the Italian community of the Innisfail district to commemorate the centenary of the state of Queensland. The life-size statue of a canecutter was chosen, reflecting the importance of the sugar cane industry in the development of the district's economy. It was made from Carrara Marble from Italy.

13. ANZ Centre

14-20 Rankin Street, Innisfail

Constructed in 1923 by the general merchants, Nolan's Limited, this building is single storeyed and of reinforced concrete construction. The building has a flat parapet relieved by raised panels with classical pediments and a suspended awning. Some detail has been removed from the parapet to accommodate corporate signage.

14. Former Commonwealth Bank Building

1 Edith Street, Innisfail

Originally designed as a single storey building with a second storey believed to have been built in 1939. The building is a two storeyed rendered masonry building with a hipped corrugated iron roof which is crowned with a ventilator. The building addresses its corner position with a curved portico entrance and two Tuscan columns addressing the intersection.



SIGNIFICANCE: INNISFAIL

15. Court House

10 Edith Street, Innisfail

Completed in 1939 and designed in the interwar classical style, it is a two storeyed brick building with a corrugated-iron roof and rendered details to the gables and verandahs.

A curved portico forms the entrance to the building and addresses the corner through two columns with ionic capitals. A double height verandah runs down each street façade. The gables are embellished with broken pediments and Venetian windows.

16. J Rizzo Building

33 Edith Street, Innisfail

This building was constructed in 1935. The façade retains its original cast iron verandah posts and parapet. The columns are notable as the only decorative cast iron work visible in the commercial centre of Innisfail. The reinforced concrete building has a symmetrical façade and is of interwar classical style with a flat parapet and central arched pediment.

17. Casa Fotea Building

46 Ernest Street, Innisfail

Constructed during the building boom of the 1920s and 1930s, the building is two storeyed reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade and is of interwar modernist style with an art deco ornament on the parapet and large shopfront windows. The upper storey has casement windows with cantilever concrete window shades.

To Atherton Tablelands
PALMERSTON HWY

TO CAIRNS

BRUCE HWY

INSET- Business district

LEGEND



Heritage



Art Deco Feature



Information Centre



RV Parking



Toilets



BBQ/Picnic



RANKIN STREET

- 1. Blue Bird Cafe
- 2. Former Qld National Bank Building
- 3. Robertson Bros Building
- 4. Former National Bank of Aust
- 5. Johnstone Shire Hall
- 6. Queens Hotel
- 7. Duffin House / Arcidiacono House
- 13. ANZ Centre
- 18. Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church
- 19. Former AS Mellick Building

- 23. St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church
 - 27. Former Bank of NSW Building
- #### FITZGERALD ESP
- 11. Masonic Temple
 - 12. Pioneers of the Sugar Industry Monument
 - 20. Ambulance Station
 - 25. Innisfail Fire Station

- #### MOURILYAN ROAD
- 21. Innisfail Water Tower

- #### EDITH STREET
- 8. Regent Arcade

- 9. White Horse Hotel
- 10. Former National Bank / Commercial Banking Co
- 14. Former Commonwealth Bank Building
- 15. Court House
- 16. J Rizzo Building
- 24. Anzac Memorial Park
- 26. Hotel Grand Central

- #### OWEN STREET
- 22. Lit Sing Gung Temple
- #### ERNEST STREET
- 17. Casa Fotea Bulding

IL TOWN MAP



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app today!**



18. Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church

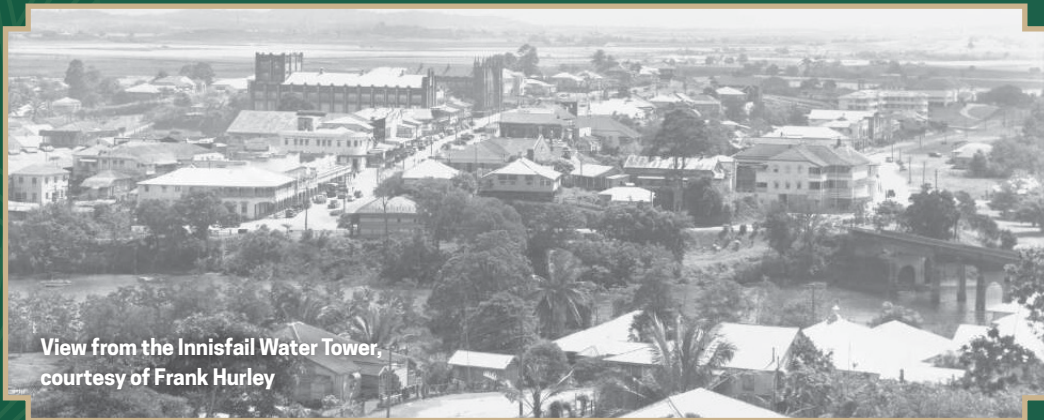
90 Rankin Street, Innisfail

Mary, Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church, was built at a high point in the increase in Catholicism in Queensland, during a period of expansion in the sugar industry in general and growth in Innisfail in particular. Innisfail's ability to pay for such a church in the 1920s reflects the boom in the sugar industry. The church is a

significant example of the work of the architects H.R. Lawrence and T.M.W. Lardon who were prominent in North Queensland in the 1920s.

The church's leadlight windows have been an ongoing cause of concern. During the 1980s Hans Binder and Tom Tiemey began work on their restoration. However, on 1 February 1986 Cyclone Winifred, with winds up to 220km/h, smashed nearly all of them. A large team of volunteers repaired and replaced the leadlight glass over three Christmas holidays.

In the meantime, another team of volunteers were restoring the (mainly) silky oak church pews. Fourteen of the 72 pews are believed to have survived from the original (1891) church. On 20 March 2006, Cyclone Larry devastated Innisfail. Some 30-40 percent of the western end of the church suffered severe damage. The church lost nearly half of its windows again. Estimated restoration work involved 140 square metres of glass and 18 months of work.



View from the Innisfail Water Tower,
courtesy of Frank Hurley

**Former AS Mellick Building 1986, courtesy of
Cassowary Coast Libraries**



19. Former AS Mellick Building

29-37 Rankin Street, Innisfail

This was Innisfail's first substantial concrete structure and one of the earliest reinforced concrete commercial buildings in Australia.

On 10 March 1918 an unnamed cyclone virtually destroyed the town.

The interior has retained much of its original character. Its timber ceiling and small, high windows provide an indication of the likely appearance of the 1920s store.

20. Ambulance Station

54 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail

This building was designed by architects Hill and Taylor. The building comprises two storeys and is made from reinforced concrete. It has a tiled roof, a symmetrical façade with two projecting gables and is a simple unornamented building except for corbelled gable ends.



21. Innisfail Water Tower

**34-36 Mourilyan Road,
East Innisfail**

Constructed in 1933 and 1934, the tower is a prominent feature on the skyline, its stylistic influences strongly reflecting the art deco character of a number of other buildings in Innisfail. It was one of the first towers with both a central tower and columns, and at the time of construction the dome top was one of the largest in the state.



22. Lit Sung Coong Temple

8 Owen Street, Innisfail

Prominent because of its vivid colour and distinctive styling, this building has a significant interior. Known colloquially by locals as the 'Joss House', 'Joss' being the term for a Chinese god represented as an idol, and joss sticks being the incense placed in front of the shrine. The present temple was built in 1940 to replace the one destroyed.



23. Former St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church

114 Rankin Street, Innisfail

An outstanding and distinctive example of the use of local timbers and craftsmanship in a design reflecting the worldwide influence of the work of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's ideas on organic architecture.



24. Anzac Memorial Park

85 Edith Street, Innisfail

The park is the former site of the Geraldton State School. It was gazetted as the school reserve on 4 January 1887. The school operated from July 1887 until it was moved to Emily Street in January 1906. It was renamed the Innisfail State School on 6 April 1913.

The park was then established as a War Memorial in 1918 and the bandstand was built in 1923. The King George V Memorial gate was built in 1936 for the coronation of the king.



25. Innisfail Fire Station

50 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail

The site for the Fire Station was acquired in 1936 with the building designed by Hill and Taylor. The Innisfail Fire Station is a two storey, reinforced concrete building of interwar classical style. It has a symmetrical façade, large semicircular arched openings with modern aluminium window frames in the centre, traditional casements with window shades at the sides, a flat parapet, cantilever awning and covered vehicle driveways at the side.



26. Hotel Grand Central

20 Edith Street, Innisfail

The Hotel Grand Central building was constructed in the 1920s in the interwar classical style. The building has a flat parapet with a central pediment and akroteria containing the words 'Hotel Grand Central'. The building was totally refurbished in 1996 and the only original detail on the building is the parapet.

Hotel Grand Central 1950s, courtesy of John Oxley Library



27. Former Bank of NSW Building

55 Rankin Street, Innisfail

This was one of the concrete construction buildings built during the boom of the 1920s and 1930s. It is two storeys of reinforced concrete construction with a symmetrical façade. The building has a classical balustrade and pediment with the words 'Est. 1817' in escutcheon. The building has a flat parapet, large windows at street level and shades over the door and windows.

Bush Telegraph Cardwell



**Cardwell Visitor Centre & Historic Precinct
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& collections of local history**






















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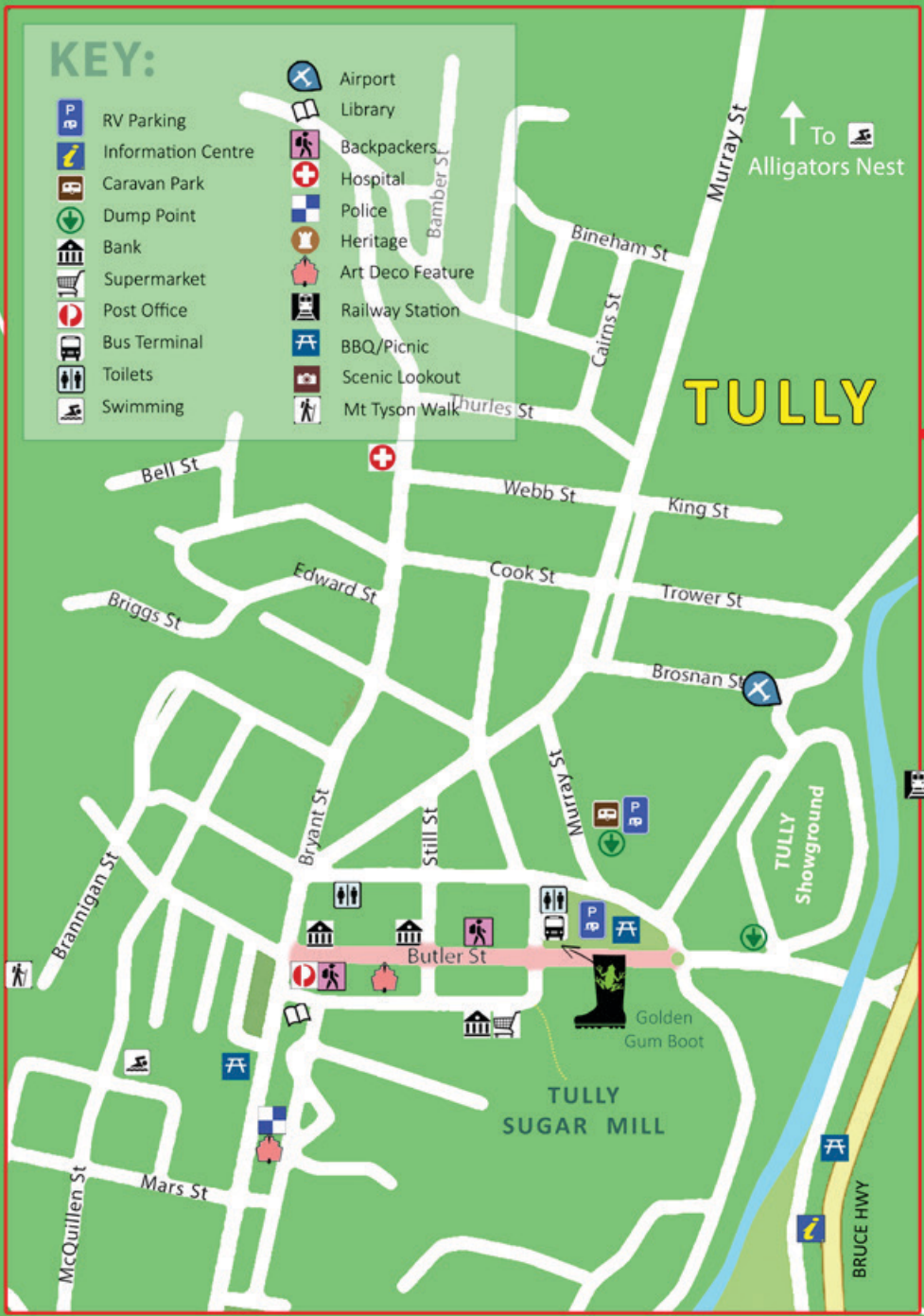
**51-53 Victoria Street / Bruce Highway, Cardwell
07 4066 2412**

www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/our-community/museums

Tully Town Map

KEY:

-  RV Parking
-  Information Centre
-  Caravan Park
-  Dump Point
-  Bank
-  Supermarket
-  Post Office
-  Bus Terminal
-  Toilets
-  Swimming
-  Airport
-  Library
-  Backpackers
-  Hospital
-  Police
-  Heritage
-  Art Deco Feature
-  Railway Station
-  BBQ/Picnic
-  Scenic Lookout
-  Mt Tyson Walk



TULLY

TULLY SUGAR MILL

TULLY Showground

Golden Gum Boot

BRUCE HWY

↑ To Alligators Nest



OTHER HERITAGE SITES

Mullins Bros Building, courtesy of Dorothy Jones Library



T1. Mullins Bros Buildings

13-19 Butler Street, Tully

Built in 1933 it originally housed the Austral Café.

The Mullins Bros Buildings has a decorative art deco parapet and façade. The words Mullins Bros Buildings are inscribed in the parapet.

T2. Castrisos Building

30 Butler Street, Tully

Built in the late 1940s by George Castrisos. One of the stand out features of the building is the curved glass windows, the glass is polished glass and still intact today.

The building operated a 'Flying Fox' system. The shop assistant would place the money and the sales docket in a small capsule which was then sent by wire up to the office in the loft. The change and receipt would be sent back to the shop assistant for the customer.



T3. Former Plaza Theatre

72 Butler Street, Tully

The Plaza Theatre building with a decorative parapet has symmetrical designs on the front façade and entrance cover/verandah. The double doors are now aluminium and glass. The colorbond roof was recently replaced. Also of interest are the concrete buttressed side walls.

The Plaza was the main movie theatre in Tully with movies every night of the week (pre television).



Plaza Theatre 1950s, courtesy of Cassowary Coast Libraries



Hotel Tully 1933, courtesy of State Library of Queensland



T4. Mullins Bros - Hotel Tully

5 Butler Street, Tully

The Hotel Tully was erected in 1926. The first bar was a temporary bar comprising a galvanised iron shack. Damaged by fire in 1997, the original building was refurbished and rebuilt. The building has an art deco parapet and façade. The date 1926 is written on the parapet of the building along with the words Mullins Bros and Hotel Tully.



T5. Williams/ Dibella Building

Cnr Butler & Still Streets, Tully

Built as a hotel but never licensed, the building has a decorative art deco façade with the date 1933 inscribed in the parapet. The original building name 'Dibella's Buildings' was covered with 'G.E. & M. Williams "Sakkalli's"' sign possibly when the Sakkalli family purchased the building.



Mount Tyson Hotel 1930, courtesy of State Library of Queensland

T6. Mount Tyson Hotel

21-25 Butler Street, Tully

The Mount Tyson Hotel building has a decorative art deco parapet. On the west end of this parapet the date 1926 is incorporated in the facade, while at the eastern end the date 1938 is written into the facade. Based on the dates inscribed in the parapet, it can be assumed that the building was originally constructed in 1926 (one year after the township of Tully was established).

17. Nolan's Building

32 Butler Street, Tully

The Nolan's Building was constructed in 1929 to accommodate the Tully branch of Nolan's Limited, Innisfail general merchants. Nolan's was a huge department store where patrons could purchase underwear, outfits, sheets and towels, as well as chicken feed. Many young residents of Tully started their working life at Nolan's.

Nolan's offered traditional great service, picking up order items and delivering them straight to the door. The building used the 'Flying Fox' deposit system in the store where the shop assistant would place the money and the sales docket in a small capsule which was then sent by wire up to the office in the loft. The decorative art deco façade has recently been repainted and is marked with the word 'Nolan's'. At ground level, the original building detail has been replaced with a modern shopfront. The Nolan's Building was substantially damaged by Cyclone Yasi in February 2011. The building has since undergone extensive restoration to rectify the damage and still retains the original art deco façade. The original heavy metal fire doors that are opened using a pulley system is still used in the building today. During business hours you may enter just inside the entrance doors and view the original beams, but please be respectful of this working environment.



Butler Street 1935, courtesy of State Library Queensland

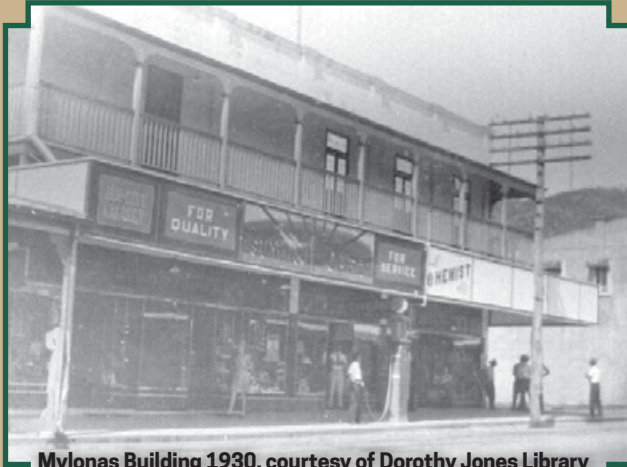




T8. Mangan Sadleir Building

20-22 Butler Street, Tully

The building was established in 1934 and was used as a hairdresser and tobacconist as well as a billiards saloon. The Mangan Sadleir Building has a decorative art deco parapet with the year 1934 and the name Mangan Sadleir incorporated on the façade.



T9. Mylonas Building

33-37 Butler Street, Tully

Constructed in 1927 The Sunkist Café was considered to be one of the most modern cafés in Far North Queensland. The Mylonas Building was extended in 1933 to include two concrete shops.

Mylonas Building 1930, courtesy of Dorothy Jones Library



T10. Dorothy Jones Library

34 Bryant Street, Tully

The Dorothy Jones Library building was built as the “modern” concrete Cardwell Shire Council office at Tully and was opened in July 1930.

During World War II council built an air raid shelter below the floor.

The front verandah has a decorative arch and balustrades and the façade has the words ‘Cardwell Shire Council’ inscribed in the arch above it.

visit your app store and search 'Tropical Art Deco'
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The Cassowary Coast Art Deco and Historical Self-Guided Walk app gives you full access to art deco sites and places of interest on the Cassowary Coast providing directions, distance, photos and information about these historic buildings and places. This app was developed in collaboration with Tully & District Chamber of Commerce as well as the Innisfail & District Historical Society which began in 1984 to help protect, promote and preserve the rich history of the region.

**To find out about art deco tours and events, visit
www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/tropical-art-deco**

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