The earliest known trail between Tweed Heads and Ballina was the beach of the bar. Once a series of cedar galleries, the trail passed through forest so dense there were only occasional glimpses of the sky. Timber cutters laid the foundations for movement into the area in the 1840s with farmers also arriving attracted by the rich volcanic soil. As settlements sprang up the cattle gave way to horse tracks but transport was still difficult with tracks generally in other dirt or gravelly conditions. This changed with the new railway in 1864. The railway, seen as a population expansion and the once buggy rail tracks became the blueprints for the roads we travel today.

This glorious route through rainforests and mountains, over sprawling plains and along beautiful coastlines, drifted with historical towns laden with treasures and curios is yours to enjoy along the Northern Rivers Secondhand and Collectables Trail. Tweed Heads, on the NSW/Queensland state border, is only five minutes from the Gold Coast airport. The area is blessed with beautiful beaches, a large river, pristine rainforests, impressive mountains and beautiful countryside. Tweed Heads itself is a large town with two shopping complexes and many major outlets to serve a growing resident population and expanding tourism industry developing along the Tweed Coast. Tweed Heads offers a range of sales, building materials and secondhand stores to satisfy both the renovator and the collector.

Chinderah
Driving south past lush green pastures and the wild foothills of the Great Dividing Range, you will find Chinderah, a peaceful riverside village with 3.5 kms of unconfined beaches and 26 kms of walkways and cycleways. Chinderah boasts one of the largest dealers in old wares in the area and the proprietor is particularly passionate about all things marine. It’s a great place to fish or for hours.

Mullumbimby
With a number of historic buildings in the art deco and federation style, Mullumbimby is still a traditional agricultural centre and is located almost exactly in the middle of the Mt Warning caldera with the nearby mountain commanding almost every view. The volcanic stipes are crossed in derelict condition. The Tweed River Regional Art Gallery, at the southern end of town, offers panoramic views of the Tweed Valley. The Gallery collection includes Australian portraits of all eras, as well as, works by regional artists depicting the local area. The charming old town is embracing the new wave of interest in antique and collectables and is home to many secondhand, vintage and collectable stores in North Lismore. The award-winning Lantern Parade is a major community celebration held at the time of the winter solstice each year. With its rich history, Lismore is a treasure trove of museums, galleries, architecture, books, antiques and curios. Lismore’s ‘vintaged’, several recycled building material outlets and a strip of secondhand, vintage and collectable stores in North Lismore make it most worthwile.

Lismore
More recently known as Duck Creek Mountain in its early days, Lismore is an Aladdin’s Cave of historic buildings, classic Australian architecture, an art gallery, stores and cafes. Among the surrounding hills is one of the last remnants of the “Big Scrub”. It is said that the soil around Alstonville is 12m deep and amongst the best agricultural land in Australia with the surrounding hills is one of the last remnants of the “Big Scrub”. It is said that the soil around Alstonville is 12m deep and amongst the best agricultural land in Australia with the surrounding hill. Old streets, Alstonville is an Aladdin’s Cave of historic buildings, classic Australian architecture, an art gallery, stores and cafes. Among the surrounding hills is one of the last remnants of the ‘Big Scrub’. It is said that the soil around Alstonville is 12m deep and amongst the best agricultural land in Australia with the surrounding hill.

Bangalow
Bangalow retains some of the region’s best street architecture. Previously the centre of the district’s dairying industry, families looking for a more peaceful lifestyle settle on rural subdivisions, taking up subtropical fruits, coffee, macadamia and fruit farming, or establishing art and craft studios. Each May the Billy Carl Darby takes over the streets, providing wonderful examples of the imagination, talent and, some would say foolishness, of local kids and kids at heart. Bangalow Historic Museum has an interesting collection of local memorabilia. Old door shopping. Find that special something amongst the many fine art, craft and homeware outlets, or do some serious treasure hunting amongst the collection of secondhand stores for fine, old wares and collectables, vintage furniture, aged miners and retro furniture and gear.

Brunswick Heads
Brunswick Heads, a picturesque town situated at the mouth of the Brunswick River, has still managed to retain its traditional family-friendly village atmosphere and offers all the simple pleasures of swimming, fishing, boating and walking. Timber bridges link the riverside to a safe, brumby-free sliver and to the surf beach that spans the entire coast to the south Byron Bay. The north bank of the river hosts a protected rainforest and the southern bank provides a harbours and small marinas for fishing boats and small craft. Mt Chincogan and Mt Warning provide a spectacular hinterland backdrop to the town. Despite its small size, Brunswick offers a great mix of cosmopolitan cafes and restaurants scattered between unique fashion, homeware and healthy lifestyle shops. In addition to those up shops, a passionate group of collectors present an eclectic mix of treasures, furniture and old wares. You never know what you might find.

The Old and Gold Festival held on the June long weekend each year celebrates all things old, secondhand and recycled with 90 passionate group of collectors present an eclectic mix of treasures, furniture and old wares. You never know what you might find! Among the stalls, Alstonville is an Aladdin’s Cave, with an impressive array of local history memorabilia and a shed full of old wares store. Lismore has become a major base for those visiting to pursue creative endeavours and alternative lifestyles. Thus there is a high concentration of painters, woodworkers, ceramists, filmakers, musicians, poets, designers and dancers with many galleries, studios and theatres in the area. The award-winning Lantern Parade is a major community celebration held at the time of the winter solstice each year. With its rich history, Lismore is a treasure trove of museums, galleries, architecture, books, antiques and curios. Lismore’s ‘vintaged’, several recycled building material outlets and a strip of secondhand, vintage and collectable stores in North Lismore make it most worthwile.

HEATH’S OLD WARES & COLLECTABLES
Established 1990 and still buying and selling in the Northern Rivers 1-17 lucky Lane, Billinudgel 4225 959 Ph: 6688 3232
www.heathsoldwares.com.au

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