

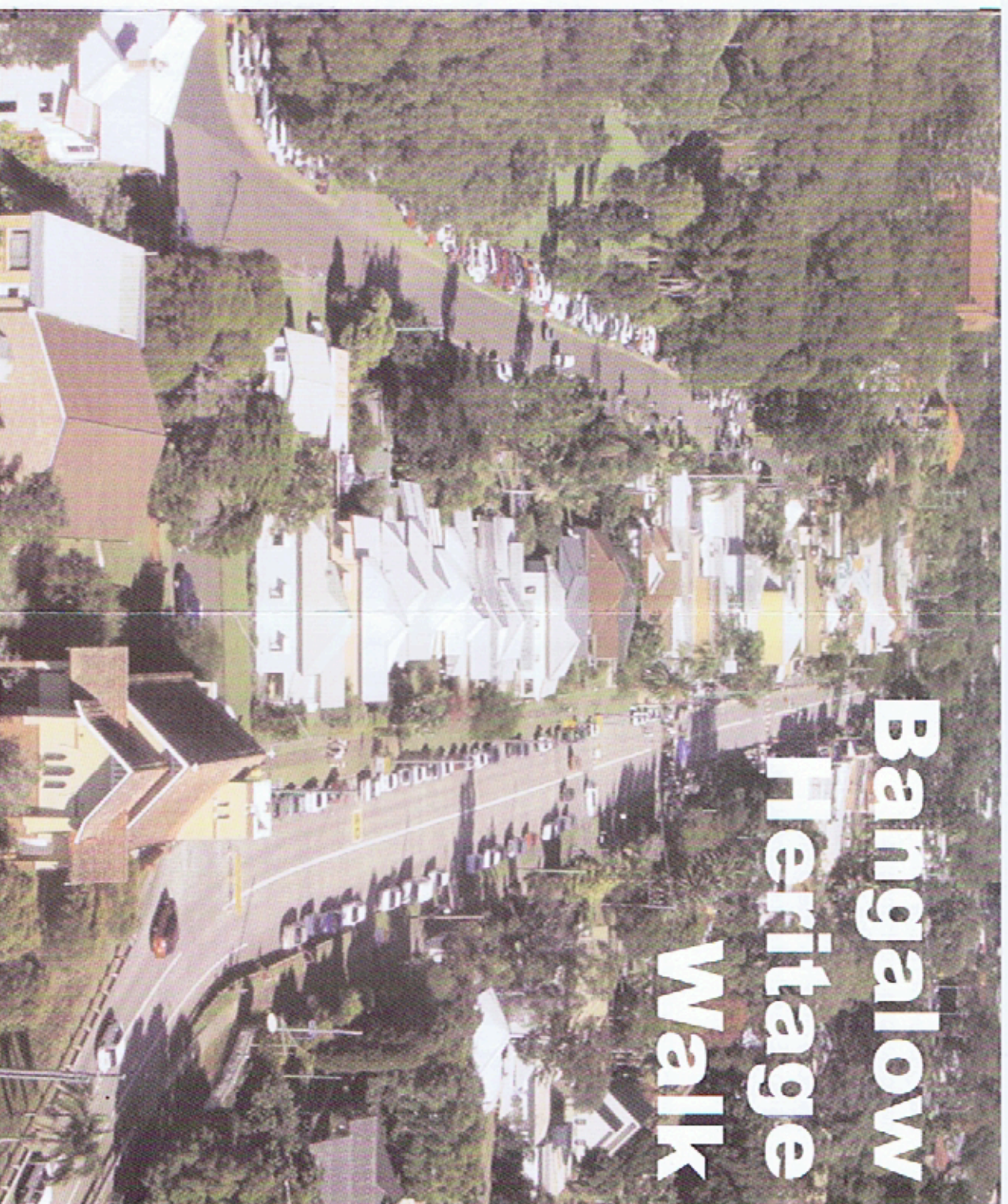
## History of Bangalow

Before European settlement of this area of northern New South Wales in the mid-nineteenth century, the rich red soil on which the village of Bangalow was to emerge was covered in dense sub-tropical rainforest, known as the 'Big Scrub'.

From the 1840s, this rainforest was pioneered by 'cedar getters' and foresters, who blazed rough tracks through the bush seeking logs of highly prized red cedar, to be used in the construction of houses or shipped abroad for furniture making. Once 99 percent of the Big Scrub had been cleared by 1900, the land was then used for dairying, and Bangalow became the centre of one of the country's richest dairying areas.

By that time, a bustling village had emerged here, with two hotels, a School of Arts, five churches, several blacksmiths and livery stables, general stores, motor garages and carriage builders, a hide exporter, tailors, haberdasheries, an engineering factory (which designed and manufactured its own small engines for rural applications), a substantial timber mill that received and dispatched its products by railway, bookkeepers, a local newspaper, fruiterer, photographic and building suppliers, a pharmacist, a post office, two primary schools, several banks and an undertaker.

From cedar getters to dairy farmers and tree changers, Bangalow has always been a town where change was adopted with an eye to practicality. Things have not always gone smoothly, and the landscape has changed radically from Big Scrub to desolation and back to green and rolling hills. But, there is a thread that runs between these different eras, and that is a pride in place and a practical approach to challenging times. There are traditional owners sharing the magic of this red-earth country, many old pioneering families remaining and a changing parade of newcomers; it's a combination that ensures the town's survival.



**Heritage House,  
Museum and Tea Room**

**Cnr Ashton and Deacon Streets  
(p) 02 6687 2183**

**Initiative of the  
Bangalow Historical Society Inc  
and the  
Bangalow Chamber of Commerce**



**Bangalow Heritage Walk** is a self-guided tour of Bangalow's historic buildings. The majority line both sides of Byron Street from the Anglican church on the corner of Ashton Street to the monument in the park near the roundabout at the top of the town.

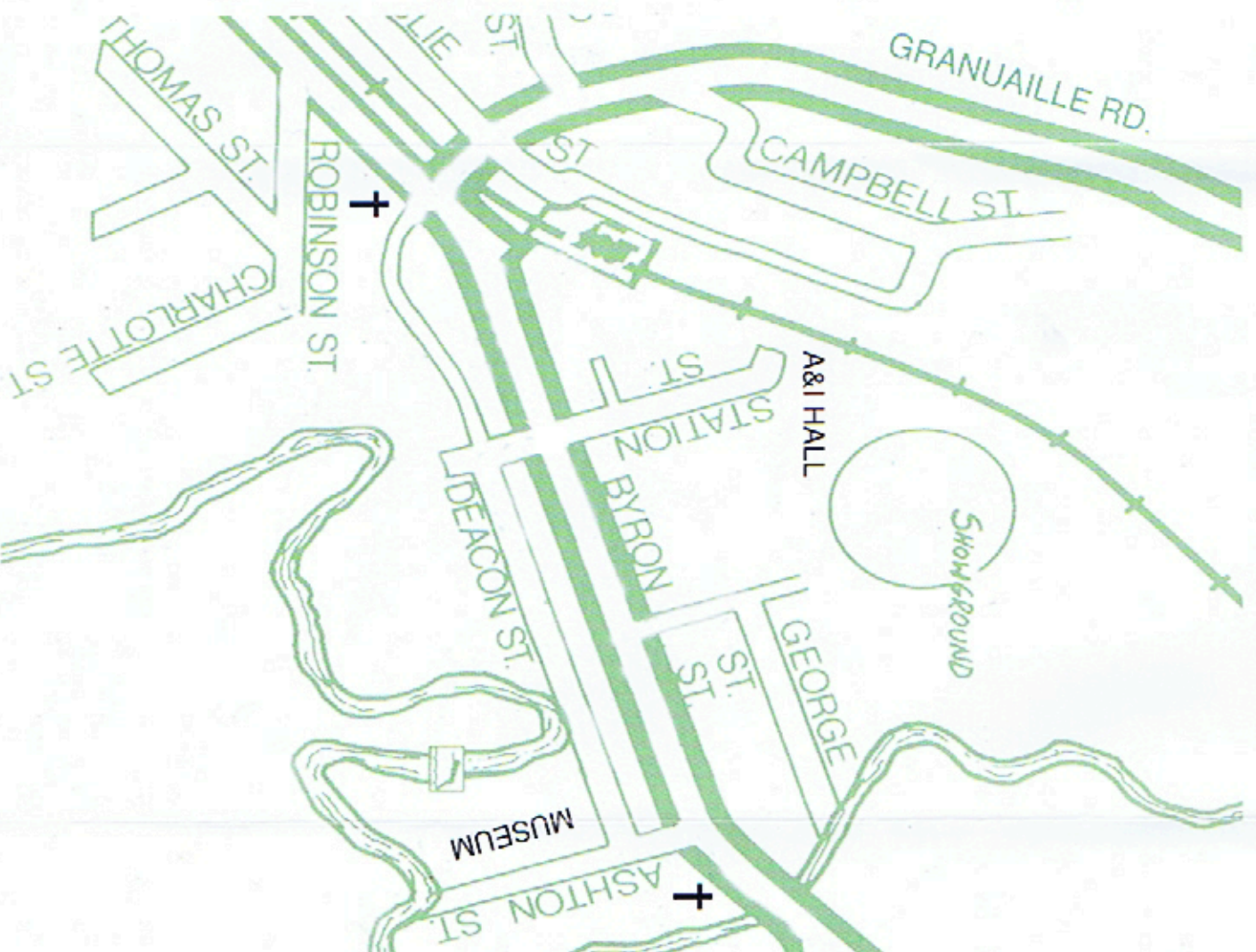
The Station Street section features the Masonic Hall as well as the A&I Hall at the entrance to the Showgrounds that have – since 1904 – hosted the annual November Bangalow Show.

The Catholic church in Deacon Street, and Readings building on Lismore Road, are also of historic significance and are within 100 metres of the town centre.

Many of the original commercial buildings were constructed of timber and were unfortunately destroyed by fire. The devastation caused by these fires in 1907, 1911, 1930 and 1939 finally prompted the insurance companies of the day to compel that all new commercial premises be constructed of brick.

Other buildings were demolished as part of the changing demographics of the town.

Byron Street, once a section of the old Pacific Highway, underwent modernisation from the mid-20th century until 1994.



At this time, the building of a highway bypass prompted a series of public meetings resulting in a committee being formed to plan, enhance and preserve the heritage qualities of Bangalow.

Work included the restoration of the shop verandahs with their iconic posts.

The Walk takes you past a number of Federation houses and, for those who are interested in exploring further afield,

The Walk can be extended to include the original housing subdivisions along George, Granuaille, Campbell and Keith Streets. Another option is a stroll down Lismore Road and up Robinson, Thomas and Charlotte Streets to discover what lies behind the Catholic church.

Not to be missed is the precinct including the Bangalow Creek Pool and our **Heritage House Museum and Tea Room** on the corner of, Ashton and Deacon Streets. The Museum houses an extensive photographic display on the history of the town, to be enjoyed while sitting down to lunch or having morning or afternoon tea in restful surroundings. Open from 10am to 3pm, Wednesday to Saturday. Ample parking available.