

Pambula



Pambula River

Nestled between the wilderness of the coast and the tranquillity of the nearby lake system, is Pambula. Hardly surprising to find that the village's name comes from the Yuin Aboriginal word meaning 'two waters'.

A couple of minutes drive away is the beach, and the mouth of the river. Here you can surf or fish, study sea creatures in the rock pools, or cruise down the river to where shell middens are evidence of Aboriginal visits to the area more than 2,000 years ago.

George Bass first explored this area in 1797. He took shelter in an inlet during a storm and travelled up the Pambula River, noting the beauty of the area in his diary, but it was the Imlay brothers who first settled here, setting up cattle runs on the Pambula River flats (also known as Panboola or Panbula) in the 1830s.

Pambula was officially proclaimed a town in 1885 but the population exploded in 1888 with the discovery of gold at Yowaka and Pipeclay Creek.

Today, the gold has gone, but the village retains many of its wonderful old buildings including the inn of Syms Covington, assistant to the great naturalist, Charles Darwin, on the second voyage of *The Beagle* in the 1830s. He became postmaster of Pambula in 1854, but remained in contact with the renowned scientist, sending a box of Twofold Bay barnacles to help in Darwin's research.

Take time to walk in the footsteps of these pioneers – and visit Panboola, the Pambula Wetlands and Heritage Project protecting the local wetlands areas, and the wildlife that makes the waterways their home.

Other options in this pretty little valley include tour-and-taste at local oyster farms, horse riding, river kayaking or surfing along the coast and where the river mouth meets the sea. If you love a day at the markets, arrange your stay to include the second Sunday of the month, for all the bargains your heart desires.