

MOSS VALE

the hub of the Highlands

PAST

The first people to inhabit the area were the Aborigines from the Gundungara tribe. The earliest white settlement was Bong Bong on the northern banks of the river, founded by Dr Charles Throsby. There were soldiers' quarters, a Commissariat Store plus other dwellings including Dr Throsby's Hut.

The water supply was unreliable so people abandoned the settlement in 1830, moved towards the newer settlements of Berrima or to the higher ground South of the river.

Although Dr Charles Throsby was granted 1000ac to the South of the river, he never built a permanent residence there. It was his nephew, another Charles Throsby, who in 1837 built a magnificent country residence of some 27 rooms. The house was purchased by the state in 1973 and is now administered by the NPWS. It is occasionally open to the public.



Patrick Throsby subdivided a portion of the land in 1863 on which a herdsman for the Throsby family Jimmy Moss lived. The area was known locally as Moss' Valley.

The railway arrived in 1867 and the town grew rapidly. By 1880 it boasted four hotels, two banks, a school and a post office, it became the jewel in the centre of the district. The Great Southern Railway once terminated at Moss Vale, with the station becoming a major focal point. In years past the station sported fine refreshment rooms and Governors rooms which even included a ballroom. Sadly today all this is locked away from public view.

In 1882 the property "Hillview" to the South of Moss Vale was purchased by the state as the summer residence for the Governors of NSW and was used up until 1957. Moss Vale Municipal Council was formed in 1888.

During federation Moss Vale was a contender for the Federal Capital of Australia but failed by not being more than 100 miles from Sydney.

PRESENT

Moss Vale being both the geographic and the local Government centre of the Southern Highlands it is affectionately known as the "Hub of the Highlands". It is an ideal centre for tourists to explore the whole area. There is a range of accommodation to suit all budgets.

History can still be found. Take a walk along the Bong Bong Track that passes through the old settlement, visit Throsby Park or Christ Church that looks down on where Bong Bong used to be. Nearby is Cecil Hoskins Reserve, renowned for its abundant bird life.



The main street of Moss Vale is one of the most delightful in the Highlands with shops on one side and opposite, the carefully designed and impeccably maintained Leighton Gardens.

Moss Vale has two fine Golf Courses, Mt Broughton and Moss Vale. Fly fishing, cycling and horse riding are just some of the

many activities to be enjoyed in the peaceful country setting.

On the fourth Sunday of each month the Southern Highlands Country Fair is held in the local show grounds, which, in March, also hosts the annual Moss Vale Show. A spectacular event.



Wineries are developing at a rapid rate and are already producing medal winning cool climate wines. Come and try something new.

All these attractions can be found within Moss Vale but travel in any direction and within minutes you are in a rural environment, looking at cows, pigs, sheep and horses, Travel a little further you reach the rugged Australian bush at Fitzroy Falls and Moreton National Park.



FUTURE

Moss Vale continues to grow. Where the old settlement of Bong Bong used to be there are plans for a Botanic Gardens.

Opportunities exist for industry as the area continues to expand with the corridor between Moss Vale and Berrima to become an Eco Industrial zone.

New shopping complexes, sympathetically designed to maintain the country town atmosphere are being implemented.

Moss Vale most certainly has a bright and prosperous future.

WHYTES



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