The Fitz Roy Iron Works commenced operation in Mittagong in 1848 following the discovery of iron ore when the road through Mittagong was being built. They were the first ironworks to be established in Australia.

Sir Charles Fitz Roy, Governor of New South Wales, visited the Fitz Roy Iron Works in 1849 and it is believed that the works were named after him.

New Sheffield was the name given to the private subdivision developed by the Fitz Roy Iron Works Company which forms the central part of Mittagong on the western side of Main Street.

The Fitz Roy Iron Works Heritage Circuit is the result of a partnership between Wingecarribee Shire Council, Dr Leah Day and Woolworths, who sponsored the circuit and the production of the interpretive signage along the route.

All the sites in this brochure have a connection with the ironworks.

The Heritage Circuit was launched on May 24, 2015 on the site of the Ironmines Historic Cairn at Ironmines Oval to commemorate the lighting of Australia's first hot-air blast furnace on that day 150 years earlier.

The following sources for images used in this brochure are acknowledged:

Site 2 Iron Stone Cottage c.2004. Photo courtesy of David Weekley.
Site 5 Mittagong Public School c.1940 (now Mittagong Library). Photo courtesy of Dr Leah Day.
Site 7 Alexandra Square Band Rotunda c.1905. Photo courtesy of Leonie Knapman.
Site 8 Wesleyan Church c.1906 (now Uniting Church). Photo courtesy of Norman Haydon.
Site 10 Mittagong School of Arts c.1900. Photo courtesy of Dr Leah Day.

WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL

Version 2.1, June 2015

Fitz Roy Iron Works
Heritage Circuit

The Fitz Roy Iron Works in production on the Ironmines Oval site c.1876. Photo courtesy of Mitchell Library (Dixson Special Collection).

A self-guided walk through the historic town of Mittagong in the Southern Highlands of NSW focussing on the Ironworks that helped shape it.

Distance: 3km (approx.) **Duration:** 2 hours (approx.)

▶ *The walking tour begins at the Fitz Roy Iron Works archaeological site in the basement car park of Highlands Marketplace, 197 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong.*

1. Highlands Marketplace Archaeological Site 197 Old Hume Highway

This is the only shopping complex in Australia where archaeological relics are on view for visitors to learn about the history of the first ironworks in Australia. The interpretative panels describe the ironworks on this site and the people behind it. At the base of the travelator in the shopping centre there is a display of artefacts that were discovered during the archaeological study in 2005.

▶ *Follow the footpath towards the Highway to Iron Stone Cottage.*

2. Iron Stone Cottage 185 Old Hume Highway

This sandstone cottage is the only above-ground remains of the Fitz Roy Iron Works. The two signs here demonstrate the cottage's history and how it has been modified over time and restored.

▶ *Follow the footpath along the cottage's verandah and across the lane to Aldi.*

3. Aldi Mittagong 181-183 Old Hume Highway

The Fitz Roy Iron Works extended under the site of the Aldi supermarket and further remains were found when it was built in 2010. Artefacts from the excavation are displayed for viewing in the glass cabinets adjacent to the entrance.

▶ *Take the footpath along the Highway and across the creek to Ironmines Oval.*

4. Blast Furnace Foundations and Ironmines Cairn Ironmines Oval, Old Hume Highway

This is the site of the blast furnace that was constructed when the ironworks expanded onto this site from 1863.

▶ *Re-join the footpath along the Highway, cross Bessemer Street at the traffic lights, turn left into Pioneer Street and right into Albert Street. At the Girl Guides' Hall, take the path under the large tree to the Mittagong Public Library.*

5. Mittagong Library (former Public School) 4-6 Queen Street

While this is not the first school in Mittagong, this site—which today houses the Mittagong Library—was the first purpose-built public school in Mittagong and was used from 1878 until 1937 when the school moved to its present location in nearby Pioneer Street.

▶ *Follow Queen Street to Lake Alexandra.*

6. Lake Alexandra Queen Street

Lake Alexandra was constructed in 1876 by the Fitzroy Bessemer Steel, Hematite Iron and Coal Company, Limited to provide a water source for its coal trams. It was given to the people of Mittagong as a public reserve in 1894.

▶ *Turn right and take the path over the bridge and walk up the hill to Victoria Street. Cross Victoria Street and turn right to Alexandra Square.*

7. Alexandra Square Victoria Street

This site was originally laid out as the central town square when the Fitz Roy Iron Works Company created the subdivision of New Sheffield in 1864. The band rotunda, which was once home to regular concerts, used to be in the centre of the square.

▶ *Cross Alexandra Square to Alice Street. Turn right along Alice Street, turn right into Albert Street to the Uniting Church.*

8. Mittagong Uniting Church 4-7 Albert Street

This church was built in 1865 on land donated to the Wesleyans by the Fitz Roy Iron Works Company. The iron beams and trusses that support the roof and walls of the church were manufactured at the Fitz Roy Iron Works.

▶ *Return to Alice Street and turn right towards Main Street. Turn right and cross the Highway at the pedestrian traffic lights. Go right to St Stephen's Church.*

9. St Stephen's Church 106 Main Street

This church was built to a modified Edmund Blacket design in 1878 on land donated by the Fitzroy Bessemer Steel, Hematite Iron and Coal Company. The church was extended in 1928 using stone from the demolished Commercial Hotel (on the site of the current Lion Rampant Hotel).

▶ *Continue along the footpath, cross Station Street and then cross at the traffic lights, continuing past the Mittagong Soldiers' War Memorial Clock.*

10. Mittagong Memorial Hall 114-116 Main Street

The Mittagong School of Arts was built on this site in 1899 and its gable roof is visible in the middle of the building. The hall was added in 1911 using sandstone from the Fitz Roy Iron Works and materials from the old Joadja Village Hall.

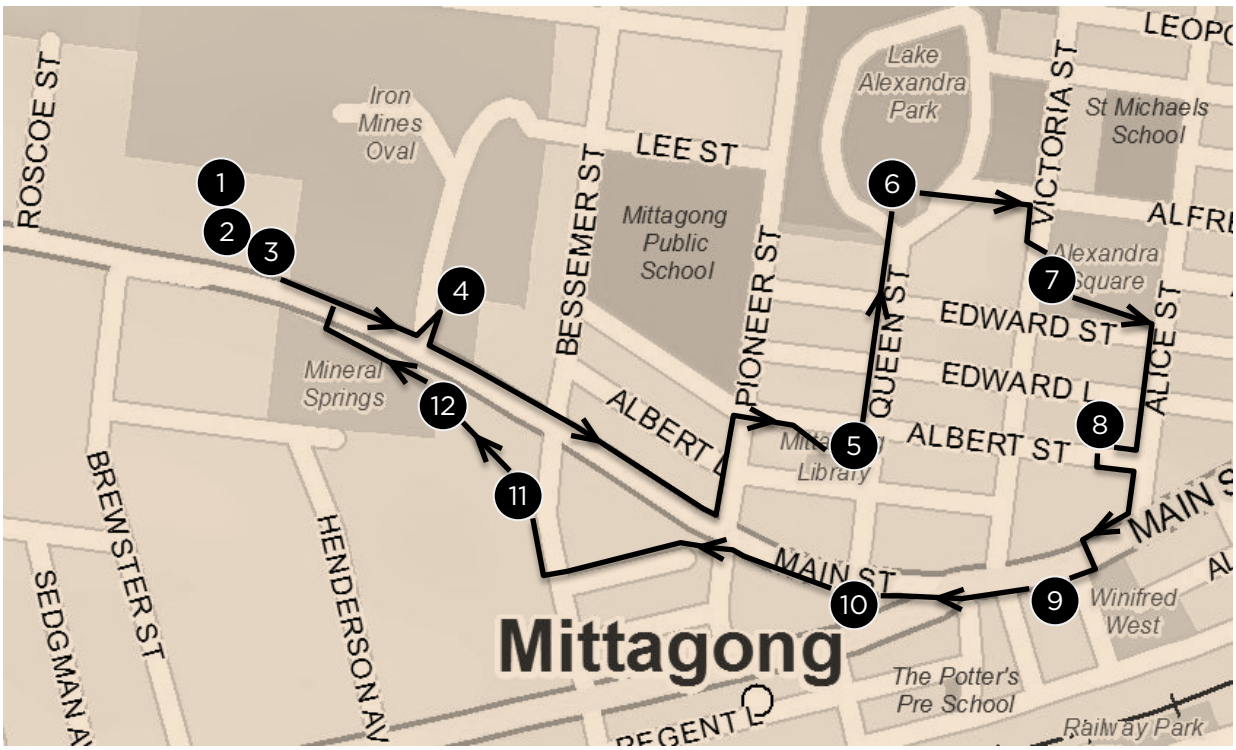
▶ *Continue along past the Memorial Hall and shopping centre. Cross Pioneer Street and walk straight ahead into the closed road end of Park Street and down the hill. Turn right at Bessemer Street to the Mittagong RSL Club. (Please note that there are no footpaths along Park or Bessemer Streets.)*

11. Mittagong RSL Club (Ironmines Creek) Bessemer Street

Ironmines Creek runs through the Mittagong RSL Club site and it was at Iron Stone Bridge (near Sign 12 on this Heritage Circuit) that iron ore was first discovered in Mittagong. This led to the establishment of Australia's first ironworks in Mittagong in 1848.

▶ *Continue diagonally across the RSL car park to the RSL sign at the Old Hume Hwy.*

12. Mineral Springs 148-150 Old Hume Highway

There were several carbonated chalybeate springs (rich in iron salts) in and around this site. It was a popular tourist destination at the end of the 19th century.

▶ *Return to Highlands Marketplace along the path, across the bridge and across the Old Hume Highway. End of Walk.*