Stop 7. The Town Clock

This strong cubist designed clock tower with its four stylized clock faces is a prominent landmark in Kyogle. Erected in 1941 to commemorate Robert Moore, who had been Shire President for 16 years. Moore was also instrumental in conserving the Fidden Creek Rainforest Remnant, a reserve which now bears his name and is well worth a visit.

Stop 8. The Memorial Institute

133 Summerland Way

Rebuilt after a fire in 1932, this was another Colonel F. Board design. At street level note the two marble plaques placed at the former entry to the building. The "new woman" was a theme of the Art Deco movement and it is interesting to read on the northern tablet that the Memorial Institute was a "tribute to the work of women of the district in public movements".

Stop 9. Council Chambers

1 Stratheden Street

Now turn down Stratheden Street to view the unusual Council Chambers, designed by Sir Charles Rosenthal with American-style Cape Cod roof. Opened in 1938, elements of the Art Deco movement can be seen inside, including two splendid lights.

Stop 10. Kyogle Museum

Corner Wiangarie Street

If you would like to know more about the history of Kyogle, continue walking south to the Old Fire Station, now housing the district's museum.

Stop 11. Bank of New South Wales

Next cross the road to the National Parks and Wildlife building formerly the Bank of NSW. Note that the main entry to the building, opened in 1940, is located centrally within a projecting front. This front is a dominant element of greater height than the main body of the structure. It is adorned with four fluted pilasters (flat columns) and has a decorative Art Deco designed grille over the entry. Look inside the entry porch at the door hardware, with its set of three stainless steel handles.

Stop 12. Burtons Partnership

Burton's Partnership, located across the road, was formerly Junor's department store. Built in 1944, the modern façade is primarily horizontal in character, although to one end there is a rendered vertical panel balancing the asymmetrical composition. Along the parapet there is a rendered coping with a repetitious wave-like pattern. This applied decoration is a feature of Art Deco. Black tiles, so typical of the style, also surround the shopfronts but have been painted cream.

Stop 13. Bambu Wholefoods/Turning Heads *118 – 120 Summerland Way*

Thought to have been built in 1935 for a local chemist, Alfred Ford, these two shop-fronts display unusual Art Deco features. Note the beautiful green tiles with an Aztec design in black, the ornamental ziggurat in the recessed entry porch, and the bevelled glass doors with timber decoration. Looking up, see the amazing rainwater heads with a single zigzag decoration and recessed light. Above the awning the façade of this building shows a rounded parapet with both **speed lines** and vertical pleating.

Stop 14. Above the Western Awnings

Look across the street to the shop facades and note the three brick arched verandah openings with their lead light highlights. Next cross Geneva Street and note that the western side facades are simple. Vertical piers and horizontal lines of protruding bricks provided decoration. In contrast the rendered and painted façade of the former Samios Café contains pairs of imaginatively shaped windows and colour has been used to draw attention the zigzag design, protruding central and **speed lines**. Does the blue colour make you think of electricity?

We hope you have enjoyed this walk and appreciated the Art Deco style seen in Kyogle. Consider recycling this pamphlet by returning it to the Tourist Office.

Produced by the Kyogle Tourist Office with information supplied by Kyogle & District Historical Society.

Kyogle

... in the fast lane

An Art Deco Walk

August, 2009

What is the link between Art Deco, Cars and Speed?

Speed lines are a feature of the Art Deco style, a style which adopted much from the period when fast cars, fast women, fast lifestyles, cinemas and nightclubs were all the rage. The period had its heyday from 1925 to1940 and the associated Art Deco architecture indicated forward movement and progressive times. Kyogle's main street has excellent examples of this period.

Why Art Deco in Kyogle?

Prior to 1920 Kyogle, being close to the "Big Scrub" rainforests most buildings were timber. Some of these early buildings, such as the Masonic Lodge in Stratheden Street and Kyogle Post Office, are still standing. However in the late 1920's and early 1930's a series of large fires burnt whole rows of shops and destroyed much of the original fabric of Kyogle. New buildings were constructed of more durable bricks and as the Art Deco style was at the height of its popularity local builders and architects enthusiastically adopted its clean lines and decoration.

The Walk

The Art Deco walk takes about 1.5 hours and guides you up and down both sides of the Summerland Way. It is considered essential to walk on both sides of the street so that you can look across the road and see the varied Art Deco facades above the awnings. It also draws attention to Art Deco details such as doors and their hardware, entrances, and glazing. Start from the Visitor Centre and walk up the footpath on the western side of the Summerland Way. If you need a rest why not have a tea or coffee at one of our cafés.

Stop 1. Rex Page Barber – Art Deco Shopfronts *41 - 47 Summerland Way*

Designed by the well known Lismore Architect Colonel F. Board for David Burton this complex of four shops with their original shopfronts adds variety to the Kyogle streetscapes. Note the band of lead lighting at the top of the shopfronts. It is typical of the style, with coloured and textured glass and repeated zigzag design. Other typical features include geometric white line motifs on the black tiles and recessed entries.

Stop 2. Café – Formerly the Samios Cafe

57 Summerland Way

Cafés, milk-bars and cinemas drew heavily on the Art Deco style. Built for the successful Greek migrant Alexandros Samios and his wife Dora this café and shop, with Cabaret above was opened by the Shire President in 1936. The façade, best viewed from the opposite side of the street, presents the most striking example of the Art Deco movement in Kyogle. Features include a stepped skyline, central bay emphasised by a zigzag motif, parallel **speed lines** at the top of each window and horizontal banding at the top of the parapet. Look inside and note the coffee cups which decorate the walls.

Stop 3. Exchange Hotel

Corner of Geneva Street

As you walk towards the Exchange Hotel note original shopfronts at 61 & 63 Summerland Way. A band of lead lighting at the first shop contains no coloured glass but its geometric design is enhanced by the use of texture, while the next shop contains an unusual curved design.

Completed by Tooth & Co Ltd in 1929, the Exchange Hotel is different in style to the former Samios café. However its splayed corner, having a façade at 45 degrees to the street, is a common feature of the Art Deco style.

From beneath the awning of the Exchange Hotel look south-east, to the opposite corner, to Care Connections, formerly the Commercial Bank of Australasia building. Completed in 1928, this building has elements of the Art Deco style in that it has a simple cubic form, but the architect has used classical columns rather than geometric designs to provide decoration.

Stop 4 The Roxy Picture Theatre

7 Geneva Street

If you are not in a hurry, turn right into Geneva Street and note on the southern side the two storey façade of the former Roxy picture theatre. It was owned by David Burton and opened in August 1936. The Art Deco influence can be seen in the main façade which acts as a parapet, and is stepped up towards the centre in the ziggurat style. Note the three **speed lines** on each corner. It is also interesting to note that the whole façade is oriented slightly towards the west. We wonder why this is. Perhaps it was designed to attract patrons from the railway station.

Stop 5. Fairymount Café

81 - 83 Summerland Way

Cross Geneva Street passing Mitre 10, formerly Shirley's Store built in 1928, and continue walking until you see the sign Fairymount Café in the pavement. Now look up. Suspended awnings clad with Wunderlick sheeting showing a variety of geometric and floral Art Deco designs. Decorated ceilings can also be found inside the café. Next look across the street to the fabulous Summerland Credit Union building, which features on the front of this pamphlet.

Stop 6. The Banks

The Summerland Credit Union, formerly the State Bank, was built in 1937, at the height of the Art Deco period. It is one of six two storey banks built on the eastern side of the main street. Note that the upper part of this building is decorated with stylised low-relief patterning which appears as a combination of three parallel **speed lines**, curvilinear edges, and vertical details. The outline of a sky scrapper is traced in the openings between the columns. Next door the National Bank built c1925 and the following Commonwealth Bank built c1930 follow a style known as Georgian Revival. This was characterised by symmetry, regular repetition of windows, and entrances which were given "high style treatment".