

Wamberal and Terrigal's past.



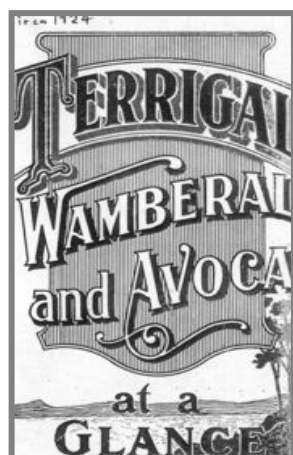
Wamberal – 1919

Wamberal Beach and lake north of Terrigal provided tourists, seeking quietly beautiful surroundings with all they could desire. It covered about 100 acres. Fine coastal views were seen from the surrounding hills, amongst which were picturesque orchards and vegetable gardens.



Terrigal – 1919

Visitors to Terrigal were well catered for by the many boarding houses and cottages to let, as well as stores, Post Office, Picture Show, Public Hall, Public School and Churches. The Surf Club had 1 surf boat and members regularly patrolled the beach. Terrigal was known as "The Show Place".



Above is a view taken from Wamberal Lake in about 1900 for "Benson's Furnished Cottages" on the sandy beachfront which is now Remembrance Drive below Ocean View Drive (Wamberal to Terrigal road). Henry James Turner Benson's large house called "Ozone" was completed here in December, 1899. He and his wife Ada (Watkins) were the parents of Eric (deceased), Doris Benson (Gosford), Ada (Mrs. Phillips, Gosford) and Olwyn (Mrs. J. H. Little, Gosford.)

This view shows the area nearby to where the present Wamberal Public School stands. In the 1920's a pineapple plantation was planted here (on the land you see in the foreground). The view was spectacular and shows the opening of Wamberal Lagoon and the Haven at Terrigal in the background.



In 1871 a petition was lodged with the Postmaster General's Department asking for a Post Office to be opened at Wamberal. At that time horsemen had to pay three pence and pedestrians one penny to cross the Erina Creek private punt when they had to post or collect letters at Gosford. Residents from Terrigal, Tumbi Umbi, Erina and Tuggerah Beach indicated that they would also benefit if a post office was opened at Wamberal.

Mr. Charles Watkins was appointed Postmaster and business commenced on the 1st of May 1872.

The post office was established on the highest point between what is now Seaview Avenue and Old Gosford Road.



When the post office was moved to the Entrance Road - approximately 1914 - it incorporated a store to service all, between Long Jetty and Erina, as the present East Gosford one did not exist.

Additional shops were established at Wamberal after the World War II.

Mr. Eric West built a new brick post office store next to the old building in 1949. This building subsequently became a supermarket and is now the present pharmacy. The post office continued until June 1990. Wamberal's growing population is assured of the continuance of excellent service with the establishment of a new Post Office at Wamberal Village Centre in 1997.

