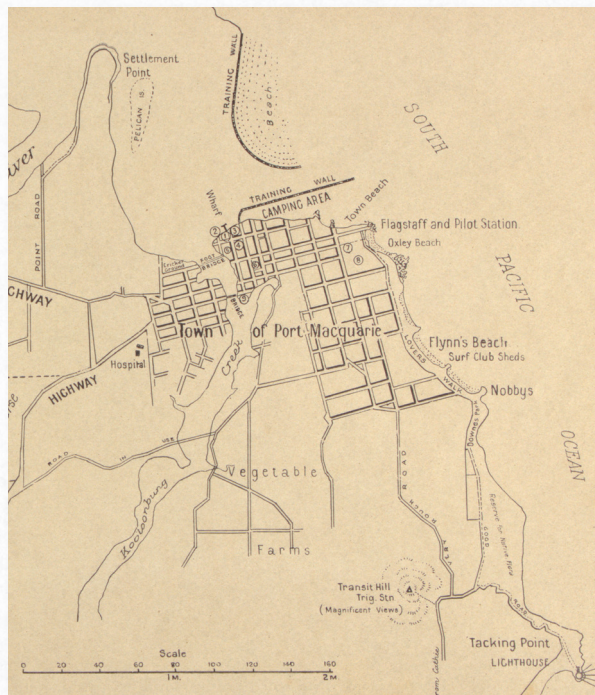


This brochure is supported by Create NSW's Cultural Grant Program, a devolved funding program administered by The Royal Australian Historical Society on behalf of the NSW Government.



By the 1940s, Port Macquarie had embraced its role as a tourist town. The Port - Port Macquarie Pictorial was a guide book featuring photographs and advertisements. The book also included this map showing the locations of services and sporting facilities. Farmers offered tours of their vegetable farms located close to town.



Map: The Port - Port Macquarie Pictorial, 1946 Painting: The Old Gaol, 1914, Lionel Lindsay

The place known as Guruk to the local Birpai people was first seen by European colonists in 1818 when an expedition led by Surveyor General John Oxley reached the coast after a 500km overland trek from Mount Harris on the Macquarie River. Oxley named it "Port Macquarie" in deference to the then colonial governor, Lachlan Macquarie, and in 1821 a penal settlement was established here.



During the next nine years, with the settlement under military rule, expansion was limited, though government farms were established on the Hastings and Wilson Rivers, and timber cutters ranged along the rivers removing valuable cedar and rosewood.

However, in 1830 it was decided to admit free settlers to the region, resulting in the expansion of the settlement and an increase in trade. Farm production rose dramatically and ships plied regularly between Port Macquarie and Sydney.

After the convict establishment was broken up in 1847 the town strenuously attempted to rid itself of the "convict stain" through its commercial and community activities, thereby broadening its 19th and early 20th century history. As it became easier to access it was promoted as a holiday destination and during a visit to Port Macquarie in January 1912, Mr. John Dacey, the New South Wales Treasurer, glowingly referred to it as "The Manly of the North Coast".

Today, the Port Macquarie Museum offers a captivating exploration of our rich history and culture, providing an engaging and informative journey through Port Macquarie's past with diverse exhibits and immersive experiences. Visitors can delve into the region's vibrant culture and heritage, discovering stories that highlight and inspire a deep appreciation of the unique identity and legacy of our charming coastal community.

This driving tour takes you to some of Port Macquarie's significant historic places. Free parking is available at all the locations and we encourage you to leave your vehicle to take a closer look.

Painting: Old Houses, c1916, Lionel Lindsay

About PORT MACQUARIE

HISTORIC PLACES DRIVING

TOUR GUIDE



PORT MACQUARIE MUSEUM Our Place, Our Stories

This guide encourages visitors to explore and view historic places in and around Port Macquarie. The driving tour takes you to engaging and picturesque heritage places within 8 km of the CBD.

Scan this QR code to access a full audio guide on your device. The guide includes further information and historic images.



Painting: Waterfront, c1916, Lionel Lindsay



1 Gaol Point



The point takes its name from the old gaol which stood at the corner of Lord and Stewart Streets. It was built in the late 1830s and was used mainly as a police lock-up rather than a gaol for long-term prisoners. The only judicial execution conducted in Port Macquarie took place outside the gaol in 1843 when Therramitchie, an Aboriginal man, was hanged there.

2 Flagstaff & Pilot's Cottage



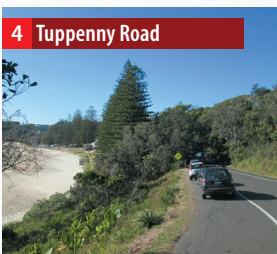
A flagstaff was erected in 1821 soon after the arrival of the first convicts and soldiers. A code of signals was established and because the river entrance, with its sand bar and submerged rocks, was treacherous, Richard Neave was appointed as pilot. The Pilot's Cottage was erected close to the flagstaff and is now part of the Mid-North Coast Maritime Museum.

3 Windmill Hill



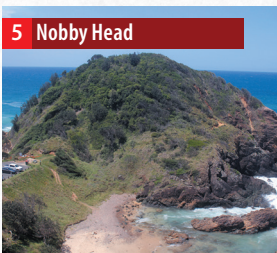
The first mill was a treadmill next to the granary. Operated by convicts it was used to mill grain grown on government farms into flour for breadmaking. After the district was opened to free settlers in 1830 Major Archibald Innes had a windmill erected on a hill south of the flagstaff and employed Robert Peebles as millwright. This sculpture by Rick Reynolds, representing the millstones and spindle, was placed there in 2004.

4 Tuppenny Road



Access to the Port Macquarie Surf Lifesaving Club at Flynn's Beach was difficult so in 1944 Bob Stanfield, the club president and proprietor of the Royal Hotel, decided to raise money to construct a road. He began charging one shilling for a packet of cigarettes, two pence more than the usual price. The extra 'tuppence' went into the collection box and mounted so quickly that there was soon sufficient to start work on the road.

5 Nobby Head



In May 1874 John Hume, a teacher at Port Macquarie Public School and member of a group picnicking there, slipped off a rock ledge and fell into a channel through which the sea rushed in and out of a cave. His friend Henry Gardner immediately jumped in but was unable to rescue Hume and both men were swept away never to be seen again. In 1876 an obelisk was erected on the hill to commemorate Gardner's bravery.

6 Sea Acres National Park



This remnant of coastal rainforest with a diversity of flora and fauna first received protection in 1884 when it was reserved for the preservation and growth of timber. Its status was upgraded to Flora Reserve in 1913 and to Nature Reserve in 1987 before it was re-categorised as a National Park in 2010 under the management of the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.

7 Tacking Point Lighthouse



Tacking Point was named by Matthew Flinders in 1802. In April 1878, tenders were invited for the erection of a light tower and it was constructed by Shepherd and Mortley with the fixed light first exhibited on 4 April 1879. William Lewis was the first keeper, followed by Tom Robinson who held the post for 20 years. In 1919 the light was converted to automatic acetylene operation and then to mains electricity in 1974.

8 Transit Hill



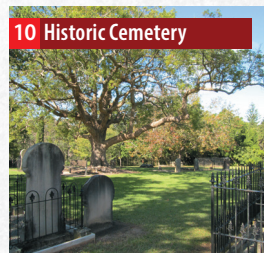
At 119 metres above sea level Transit Hill is the highest point in Port Macquarie. In 1882 it was selected as a station for observing the Transit of Venus. W. J. MacDonnell, manager of the local branch of the Bank of NSW and an eminent amateur astronomer, was one of the observers but on the day of the transit cloud and rain prevented any useful observations being made. However, it was the event that led to the hill acquiring its name.

9 Roto House



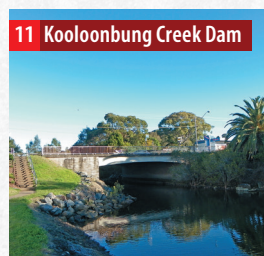
The house was built in 1890 for John Edmund Flynn and his wife Jessie (McDougall) and became the family home for almost 60 years. Flynn was a licensed surveyor and the family was strongly engaged in community affairs. After John died suddenly in 1933 Jessie stayed there until her death in 1946 at the age of 84. It was officially taken over by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1979.

10 Historic Cemetery



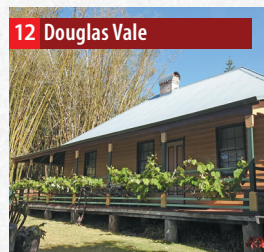
After Port Macquarie's first burying ground on Allman Hill was closed in 1824 a new burying ground was established at the southern end of Horton Street between Kooloonbung Creek and Wrights Creek. It was used until 1886 and at least 1500 people were buried there including some of the most significant figures of early Port Macquarie.

11 Kooloonbung Creek Dam



For over a century the dam on Kooloonbung Creek, built by convicts in the early 1840s, served as a source of fresh water for the town, and its remnants still form part of the Gordon Street crossing. Initially the spillway was too high and water would flood the road but the problem was solved by erecting a new bridge with a weir below. The weir was removed in 1979 allowing salt water to again flow up the creek.

12 Douglas Vale



Around 1860 George Francis purchased 18 hectares of land on what was then called the New England Road. He called it Douglas Vale after his wife, Margaret Douglas, built a homestead there and started a vineyard with Black Isabella cuttings. Douglas Vale developed into one of the best vineyards in the district, and during the 1880s its wines were awarded medals at exhibitions in Bordeaux, Amsterdam, Calcutta and London.