



The Macleay River, Central Kempsey and part of East Kempsey. The paddle steamer "Fire King" is at anchor at the western side of river. Rudder's ferry is mid-way across the river and unnamed sailing ship is heading downriver. 1866

## STREET NAMES.

### Whom do they honour?

**GABRIEL AVENUE** ... Dr C L Gabriel, an early medical practitioner, lived in a house on the river bank below Rudder Lookout until the flood of 1864. He was married to Enoch Rudder's daughter Rhoda.

**LORD STREET** ... Simeon Lord, a Sydney merchant, bought a block of land in the Rudder Estate subdivision in 1836.

**GILL STREET** ... Silas Gill was a preacher who travelled the district teaching the Gospel between 1859-75. He was described as the Apostle of Methodism on the Macleay River

**BISSETT STREET** ... Captain Bissett was the Captain of the ship "Princess Victoria" on which Enoch William and Emma Rudder travelled to Sydney. They formed a close friendship and Rudder's son, born sixteen days after their arrival, was named Llewellyn Bissett.

**FERRY STREET** ... marked the approach to the ferry commissioned by Enoch Rudder which began service in 1842.

**INNES STREET** ... Major Innes was Commandant at Port Macquarie in the early days of settlement. He took up vast areas of land on the Macleay.

Information for items mentioned in this 'Walk in History' may be found at The Macleay River Historical Society Inc. Museum and Resource Centre



### Australian Government

#### Department of the Environment and Heritage

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### MACLEAY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

is a resource centre and promotes the study of local history. The centre houses material such as maps, photographs, textiles, documents and files on the history of early settlers.

**Museum open 10am – 4pm**

**Step back in time** - Visit the Settler's Cottage  
**Angus McNeil** - Photographic Collection

**Research by Appointment**

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PO Box 390 KEMPSEY NSW 2440  
**SOUTH KEMPSEY PARK PACIFIC HIGHWAY**

**KEMPSEY SHIRE COUNCIL**  
*supporting the heritage of the Macleay*



HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



step back in

*time*



Walks in History

# EAST KEMPSEY

MACLEAY RIVER

**This is a footpath walk only.**  
**Except for public buildings,**  
**you do not have permission to enter**  
**private gardens or houses**

Drive to Rudder Park where you can park your car. Rudder Park Lookout is situated on the hill overlooking Kempsey, just south of the traffic bridge on the Pacific Highway. This section of the highway is named Lord Street.

This walk through Enoch Rudder's Private Town of Kempsey takes an estimated time of 30 - 40 mins.

**1. Rudder Park Lookout** is an Apex Club Project. Enoch Rudder built his home here on a section of the 812 acre estate which he purchased from Samuel Onions in 1836. Rudder planned a private town and named it Kempsey after Kempsey on the Severn in Worcestershire, England. An historical marker placed by the Macleay River Historical Society is in the park, together with other memorial plaques. See the North Coast Red Gum, "Eucalyptus Rudderi" which was planted in 1986 by Major Lonel Rudder.

The reservoir tower was built in the 1920s. It is now the home of community radio "Tank Radio".

*Leave the Park and turn left into Lord Street then left again into Gabriel Avenue.*

**2. 'Arakoon House'**, on the corner, was built in 1912 for John H Barsby, the principal of the Smith Street store.

**3. 'Shawetah'** is at the end of the Avenue. This house was built in 1910 for Mr O. O. Dangar, an Alderman of the first Borough Council. The interior has cedar skirting boards and solid cedar doors.

*Turn and cross the Avenue.*

**4. No 5a, 5 & 4** were once the site of 'Karoola' Private Hospital which was built in 1910 by Dr R Woolnough and staffed by Matron Jessie Boughton and her sisters Lucy and Eva. 'Karoola' closed in 1951 with the opening of the new Maternity wing at the Kempsey District Hospital.

*Cross the Highway and walk downhill in Gill Street.*

The site of the first Methodist church was on the southern corner of Gill and Lord Streets. The weatherboard church was built in 1860 on land donated by William Wright.

*Turn left into Innes Street and continue along this street.*

**5. 'Wahroonga'**, No 12 -This was built by Cornelius Walker who purchased the land in 1903. Cornelius was a son of Thomas Walker, the first Undertaker in Kempsey. The bricks beneath the stucco are handmade sandstock and came from Perrin's Brickyard in West Kempsey. The land adjoining once stabled Cornelius's four black horses and housed the hearse and mourning coach.

**6. Kempsey East Primary School** on the opposite side of the street was built in 1881. The first teacher was James Lovell.

**7. St Albans Church site** - No 40A - St Albans Church of England Church was erected here in 1887. A Church school was on the site prior to 1881. The last church service was held here in July 1975.

*When you reach the end of Innes Street, turn left into Bissett Street, then left again into Rudder St where you pass many fine homes that are faithfully maintained.*

Across Rudder St town houses have been built on the original site of **Allandale Motel** which was set up by Miss Beth Mackay in 1941. It was first run as a guest house in the home built by her parents, Robert and Agnes Mackay, who moved from their property 'Allandale' at Rollands Plains in the 1920s.



**8. Chaddies Store** is where Thomas Keneally's grandfather lived and operated his general store. It was later owned by Mr Percy Chadwick and his sons. - See the plaque on the wall to honour Thomas Keneally (*see front of brochure*).

*Pause a while and cast your eyes down Ferry Street opposite.*

**This is where a ferry operated** prior to Easter Monday, 1900, when the first wooden bridge was opened. The first ferry, a punt, was made for Mr E W Rudder and crossed the river in 1842. A wharf for loading timber and general produce for Sydney was upstream of the ferry. Other wharves were across the river, and the Government Docks were just 1 km down stream of the bridge.

Across the street stood the double storey **Federal Hotel**, later converted into the Angus Flats.

The Antique shop was once **Harriott's Butchers shop**. **Isabella House** and **Willow Glen**, both rambling guest houses, were on either side of the street down towards the river bank.

Upstream of the present traffic bridge you catch sight of **Netherby House**, which is now a "Bed & Breakfast". "Netherby" was built in 1922 by the Allen Brothers for Hamilton Gordon Elrington, founder of the firm H G Elrington Co Ltd, a stock and station agency which dealt in real estate and produce.

*Continue alongside the Cenotaph and south along Lord Street (Pacific Highway) cross the Highway to reach **Rudder Park Lookout**.*