

18 klms, passing on your left the turn offs to Turners Flat Bridge and Temagog Bridge where there are pleasant picnic spots beside the river. As you enter the village of Willawarrin you will pass the entrance to the Willawarrin Sportsground on your left. In the Sportsground is a tribute to 'Abbey' the famous Australian Stockhorse. The next sign on the Heritage Trail is situated beside the Willawarrin Hall.

Willawarrin

Until a name change in 1899, Willawarrin was known as Lower Hickeys Creek. The first bridge was built over Hickeys Creek in 1881. St Johns Catholic Church was built in 1896 while St Thomas's Anglican Church was erected in 1906. The local hall was used for many notable travelling shows such as Slim Dusty

Continue 8 kilometres along the Armidale Road to the intersection of Toorooka Road and Armidale Road. Turn left and continue down the hill to Toorooka. The Heritage sign for Toorooka is in front of the first house on your left. The Upper Macleay Dairy Factory is situated 150 metres down Factory Road in the village (private). At the intersection of Factory and Toorooka Roads turn right into Toorooka Road and continue towards the river to the Toorooka Bridge crossing turn left at the entrance to the village and drive down to the Peter Mainey Bridge across the river.

Toorooka

In its heyday 140 people worked at the Upper Macleay Co-Operative. Across the road from the sign there was a golf course on the hill to the right and 3 tennis courts.

Further references: —"Maryvale" Macleay River Historical Journals #44.

Return to the Armidale Road and turn left towards Bellbrook. On your right you will pass the turn off to Millbank and Taylors Arm. Prior to reaching Bellbrook you will pass the turn off to Nulla Nulla Creek on the left, the birth place of Slim Dusty, David Gordon Kirkpatrick. There is an information site at his homestead, 12 klm from the Armidale Road.

Bellbrook

Bellbrook was placed on the National Trust in 1978 and the National Estate in 1981. Bellbrook is a record of the type of urban area created to service farming and timber getting in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The town was laid out in 1892 and gazetted as Bellbrook. There is no access to private

homes however, there are two pleasant parks for a stopover in Bellbrook.

Further references: —"Macleay River Historical Society Pamphlet— "Step Back in Time, Bellbrook"; Macleay River Historical Society Journals, "The Sauer Cedar" #33; "Bellbrook" #152; "Upper

Retrace your drive to West Kempsey and turn left into North Street with the Kempsey Rural Fire Service Depot on your left. Continue along North Street, cross over the North Coast Railway Line and continue along into Second Lane, to rejoin the Pacific Highway. Turn left and continue on the Pacific Highway to Frederickton. Just past the Macleay River Hotel at the end of Macleay Street, turn immediately right into the opening between the guard rail, adjacent to the Dairy Farmers Factory into the Road Reserve and head towards the river. Here you will find the designated Boat Ramp adjacent to the Rural Bushfire Shed. The Heritage sign for Frederickton is



Frederickton

Frederickton was the site of a shipbuilding enterprise before the town was established in 1857. Frederickton was a 'river town' with the economy centring around shipbuilding, timber getting and pastoral pursuits, including the growing of sugar cane. A government wharf was situated downstream of this park while a punt ran from East Frederickton to where the current boat ramp is located. Other wharves allowed the unloading of cream cans and logs for the nearby sawmill.

Further references: Macleay River Historical Journal Frederickton #44

Your trip can be retraced back to Riverside Park or the Kempsey Tourist Information Centre.

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ROTARY CLUB OF KEMPSEY WEST CENTENARY OF ROTARY 2005



In 2005 the Rotary Club of Kempsey West is celebrating the Centenary of the birth of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary which is a world-wide service organisation.

To celebrate this occasion, the club has provided a number of information boards about the history of the Macleay Valley and the influence of the Macleay River on this valley.

The first of the information boards can be found at Riverside Park, adjacent to the Kempsey Traffic Bridge. Ample parking is provided near the park.

In obtaining the information we have relied on the resources and photographic memorabilia of the Macleay River Historical Society.

The current signboards are to be found at:

- Riverside Park—The Dunghutti People, the Macleay River and Early Kempsey
- Frederickton—The Regattas
- Euroka Lookout—Early Agriculture
- Belgrave Falls—Border Police Station
- Willawarrin—The Stockmen of the Macleay
- Toorooka—The Dairy Industry
- Bellbrook—The Cedar Industry

From the Tourist Information Centre travel along the Pacific Highway to the Kempsey Traffic Bridge. Veer left after the traffic bridge at the traffic lights and turn left into John Street, and then left into Eden Street to Riverside Park where there are three signs.

The Macleay River

A brief outline of the Macleay Valley and the influence of the river on the people who lived here.

Further references: *Macleay Valley Heritage*, Marie H Neill; *The Valley of the Macleay*, Marie H Neill.



The Dunghutti People

Traces of the early history of the Dunghutti people who were living here at the time of the arrival of the European settlers.

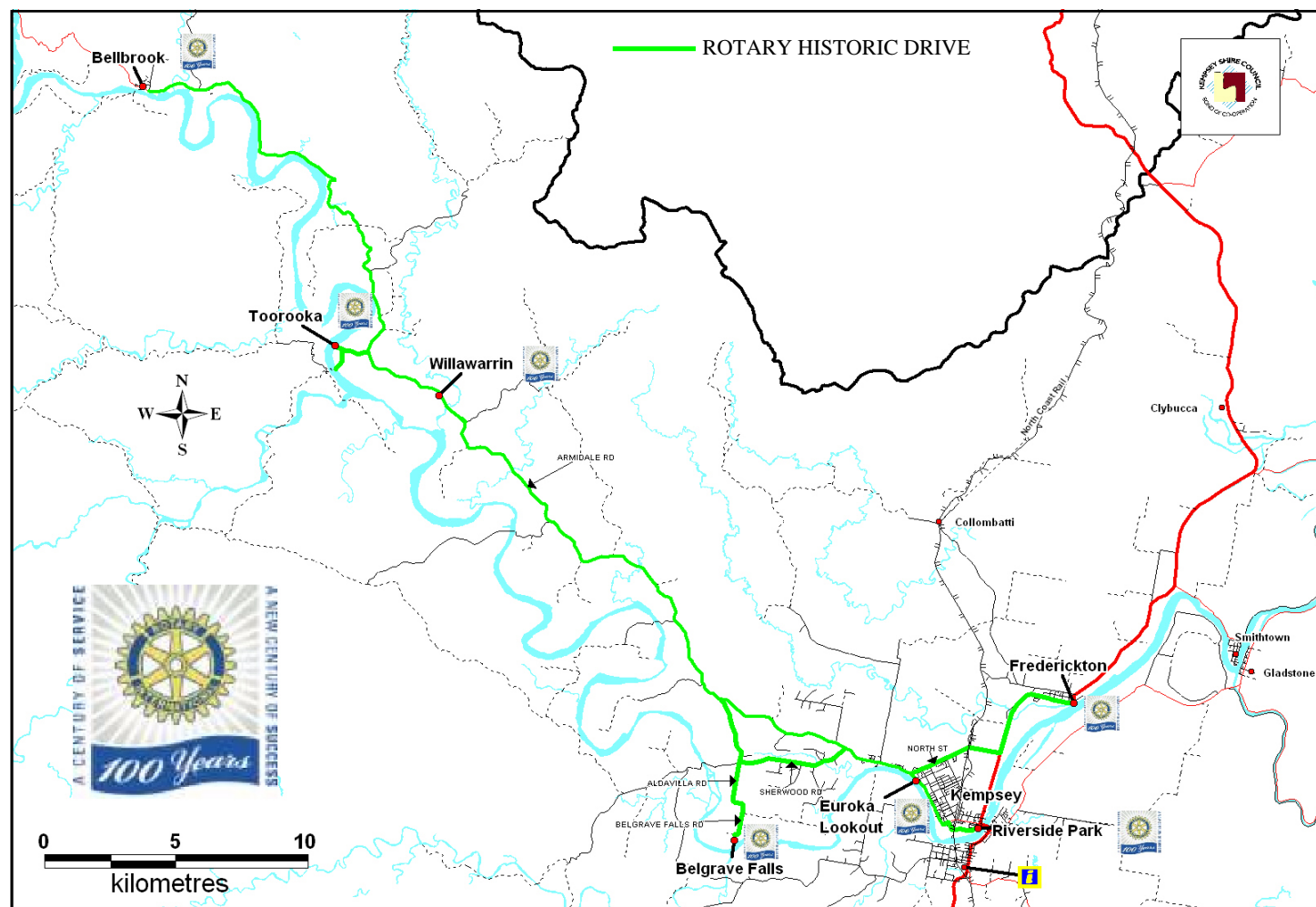
Further references: *Macleay Valley Heritage*, Marie H Neill; *The Valley of the Macleay*, Marie H Neill.

Early Kempsey

Outlines one of the early milestones after the settlement by Enoch Rudder in 1836. His house was built on the hill directly across the river from this sign.

Further references: a pamphlet, *Step Back In Time in East Kempsey* is available from the Macleay River Historical Society.

Take the exit adjacent the Riverside Public Toilets and turn left into Eden Street. Continue along Eden Street following the river and under the Railway viaduct. Continue and follow the sweeping bend right which leads into Tozer Street. At the next intersection, Tozer and Elbow Streets turn left into Elbow Street. Follow Elbow Street and turn right into River Street. Continue along River Street which follows the river passing on your right the West Kempsey Cemetery, Kempsey District Hospital. One block past the hospital pull over to the left opposite the Leith Street intersection to the Euroka Lookout.



Euroka Lookout

The lookout looks across the Macleay River towards the hills. These rich alluvial flats were once covered with brush forest. After clearing by European settlers the flats provided ideal growing conditions for maize, beef and dairy cattle.

Proceed along River Street to Sherwood Road and turn left into Sherwood Road. Continue passing on your left Ronella Drive, Airport Road and The Ponds Way. Turn left at the crossroads into Aldavilla Road passing the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre on your left. At the next junction turn right into Belgrave Falls Road and continue to the junction with Wards Road for Belgrave Falls sign. The Macleay Historical Society have a cairn here that tells about the Border Police Station.

Belgrave Falls

There are no falls on the river at this point but there was a ford which was used by early groups coming from the Port Macquarie settlement. The area was originally surveyed for the township of Kempsey and boasted the headquarters of the Border Police until 1847. The sign is at the junction of Belgrave Falls and Wards Road. (There is no access to the river)

Further references: "Border Police Station" Macleay River Historical Society Journal #44

Retrace your route back to the cross roads of Aldavilla, Link and Sherwood Roads. Cross over Aldavilla Road and continue along Link Road passing the Steuart McIntyre Dam on your right. At the intersection of Armidale Road and Link Road turn left into Armidale Road. Continue towards Willawarrin for