

Macleay Football Club. He came to Gladstone in 1928 to take charge of the punt service.

*Turn left into Rawson Street to corner of Main Street*

**See 24 Main Street.** This was the site of Sydney Sutherland's Butcher shop. The butcher's brine tank (where the current garage is) was used to keep the drinks cold for dances held in the Hall.

**16. No. 12 Main Street. James McCann, Blacksmith.** (western corner of Main & Belmore Streets). The McCann's came to Smithtown c.1873 and operated the blacksmith's shop from 1886 until 1903, when their sons took over. It is now the Smithtown Emporium.

**17. No. 10 Main Street. Sweyn Neal's General Store.** The shop opened in 1904 on the eastern corner of Main & Belmore Sts. Sweyn's sons later carried on the business. The top storey was damaged by fire & removed in the 1930's.

**18. Shamrock Hotel.** The western corner of Main Street and Holy Lane is the site of the hotel built in 1869. It became a Temperance Hotel in 1914, then a boarding house run by Mrs Daniher and lastly the Shelley family's home. It was demolished in 1986.

**See No. 1 Main Street. McAlary's General Store.** The 2-storey shop opposite the wharf has been a drapery, a cafe, a milk bar and a general store. It is now a private residence.

*Turn right into Fitzgerald Ave.*

**See the E S & A Bank.** Unbelievable but true, this tiny wooden building next to McAlary's was fully fitted out with counter, table and chairs. It became the ANZ Bank which operated until the 1960's.

**19. No. 11 Fitzgerald Ave. Butcher.** (see photo on front cover) Frank Mohr and his wife Mildred bought a yearling 'Machine Boy' and won £1000 on its first race. With the winnings Frank built the house at No. 11, in front of his old home in Holy Lane. He specialised in mutton and was granted a slaughterers' licence in 1912. His small shop can be seen today behind the garage of this private residence

*You are now back at your car. We hope you enjoyed your historic walk of Smithtown. If you would like to*

*extend your self-guided tour by car, return to Main Street and turn left into Belmore Street (named after an early Governor, the Earl of Belmore). Proceed down as far as Park Street and turn left.*

**Patrick Russell's dairy farm** was in the park area near Nestlé, and the old **Russell farm house** was situated here in the park. It was the boyhood home of Jim Russell, creator of The Potts comic strip.

**No. 4 Park Street.** Across to your right is what was once the **Anglican Hall**, moved here from Bellimboppini around 1963. It is now a private residence.

**No. 6 Park Street. St John's Anglican Church** was moved to this location in 1965 from its river front location, corner of Church and Main Streets. It is now a private residence.

*Return to Belmore St and turn left. Proceed to Russell Avenue.*

**No. 21 Russell Ave.** Once the Anglican Rectory, it is now a private residence.

*Return to Park Street and turn left. Follow this street down to the end.*

**The Nestlé factory** has been in operation here since 1921 taking over the dairying factory site that first started in 1897. The beverage MILO was developed here in 1933, and manufactured in Smithtown.



*Nestlé building completed in 1921.*

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



step back in

*time*



Walks in History

# SMITHTOWN

MACLEAY RIVER

*This is a footpath walk only. You do not have permission to enter private property. Park your car at the Riverview Hotel car park and walk towards the bridge.*

The township of Smithtown is built on a finger-shaped protrusion of land surrounded by the Macleay River, meeting the Belmore River at its tip. The land was once part of Seven Oaks Station, leased in 1840 by Major Henry Oakes, the first Commissioner for Crown Land on the Macleay. Situated parallel to Gladstone, Smithtown was once known as West Gladstone. In 1877 the name was changed to Smith Town as a tribute to Robert Burdett Smith, MLA when he

secured a Post Office there. By 1880 the name had been condensed to Smithtown.

Smithtown has long been associated with dairy farming and the dairying industry when the first factory, Smithtown Dairying Co-Op Factory, opened in 1897. The Swiss Company Nestlé is still in operation today on the same site.

Before the Major Oakes Bridge from Smithtown to Gladstone was officially opened in 1973, river traffic played an integral part in the collection and transportation of milk from dairy farms as well as ferrying passengers and transporting freight on ocean going vessels.

**1. Riverview Hotel.** Built in 1957 on the site of 2 prior hotels. The Forester's Arms opened in 1870, the last publican being Patrick O'Halloran. It was then replaced by the Centennial Hotel in 1888.

*Walk past Yakka Watson Reserve (named in 2008 after a local identity) to the wharf.*

**2. Smithtown Punt Service and Wharf.** The punt operated from 1842 until 1973 when it was no longer needed once the bridge opened. At the wharf read the plaque which was erected in 1995.

**See No. 2 Croad's Espl.** This corner block is the site of a general store (which operated from 1873-1893), and residence owned by Capt Magnus Thompson, a Master Mariner and Smithtown's first Postmaster. Both buildings were demolished in the 1960's.

**3. No. 10 Croad's Espl. Yamboon Hospital.** Sister Clair McQuade was born in Smithtown but did her training in Sydney. She returned to Smithtown to build this 5 bed private hospital for £300, which she ran from 1941-1978.

**4. No. 14 Croad's Espl.** Henry Croad arrived from Portsmouth UK in 1859. He owned 39 acres around here where he built this home c. 1885. He also opened a sugar mill, but is remembered more as a boat builder.

*Return to corner of Main Street, and turn right.*

**5. Post Office Building.** Opened in 1877 with Mr. Magnus Thompson as Postmaster. The Post Office no longer operates from this building.

**See 13 Main Street,** site of Escott's general store.

**6. No. 15 Main Street. Smithtown Butchery.** Rebuilt in 1945. Earlier butchers were Albert Salmon, Edward Benson and later William V. Saul. Look inside at the first calendar the current owner hung in 1971 when he took over the shop.

**7. No. 17 Main Street. Lolly Shop.** Fred and Louisa Baldwin settled here c.1900. Louisa sold lollies and Fred and his brother John ran a passenger service between Jerseyville and Kempsey on the vessels "Olga" & "Yankee Jack".

**8. No. 23 Main Street. Elite Hairdressing Saloon** established by Perce Prior c. 1900. He was also a tobacconist & newsagent. He later had a billiard room. In the 1970's, the house was raised & moved back from the footpath. It is now a private residence.

**9. No. 25 Main Street. Garage.** Operated from the 1950's to 1980's by John (Yakka) Watson. The petrol bowser is a relic from that period.

**10. No. 31 Main Street. The Baker's Residence** on the corner of Main was restored after the 2001 floods. The bake house next to the residence was demolished to make way for the new road. Matthew Flack, a German immigrant was the baker here from 1885-1913.

*Cross the road diagonally to Smithtown Hall.*

**11. School of Arts & Reading Room.** The Reading Room was erected in 1900 on the corner of Main & Rawson Sts, beside the original Hall built in 1886. Both buildings were replaced by the present Hall in 1926.



*Smithtown School of Arts.*

**See No's. 28-30 Main St. Police Station.** The police block was beside the Hall. In 1886 a police station & lockup was necessary as the town was unmanned at times. The police station was a doctor's residence relocated from Trial Bay. It is now a private residence.

**12. No. 36 Main St. Catholic Presbytery.** In 1889 a 2-storey presbytery was built with lacework railings on both verandahs, some of which is retained. It was replaced by the present presbytery in 1960.

**13. St Patrick's Catholic Church.** In 1867 a small chapel was built in Church St. In 1886 a new church seating 600 was built on the corner of Church and Main Sts. It was the largest church building on the Macleay, with a white altar, cedar pews, chandeliers and green leadlight windows. It was demolished in 1974 and the present church erected. The 1912 bell was moved in 1963 to a steel tower, where it remains today.

*Turn left into Church Street.*

**See St Joseph's School.** Set back from the road between the Catholic & Methodist Churches, it was built in 1912 and staffed by the Sisters of Mercy from Grafton. Most children came by boat or horse. It closed at the end of 1983.

**14. No. 10 Church Street. Methodist Church.** In 1902 the Primitive & Wesleyan Methodists of NSW united and a bazaar was held over 3 days to help raise funds for a new church which opened in 1910. It closed in the 1960's and is now a private residence.

**15. No. 6 Church Street. Teacher's residence.** The residence opened in 1891, set between the Methodist Church & the Public School. In 1934 the brick residence was replaced by this weatherboard house, which is now a private residence.

**See Smithtown Public School.** This was first built in 1891 on the corner of Church & Cannane Sts where the RSL Memorial Bowling Club now stands. The first teacher was Frederick Lewis. In 1952 the new school was built.

*Turn left into Cannane Street.*

**See the Football Ground,** home of the black and gold 'Smithtown Tigers'. The Memorial Stand is dedicated to Frank Garrity who was a member of the Lower