



PORT MACDONNELL

150th Celebrations

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 April 2010

Everyone is invited to join with the Port MacDonnell community to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Naming of the Port of MacDonnell on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th April 2010.

The celebrations will be held on the 2010 Easter long weekend, and coincides with the start of school holidays. Easter is a very busy period for the region, experiencing significant visitation, the Committee is expecting large crowds at the celebrations.

Port MacDonnell is located 450km south east of Adelaide, and is the southern most town in South Australia.

Council would like to acknowledge the traditional owners, the Bungandidj Aborigines, who lived largely on the produce from the sea. Like Mount Gambier, which is only 28 km inland, Port MacDonnell was first sighted by a European when Lieutenant James Grant, sailing the HMS Lady Nelson down the coast on 3 December 1800, observed the coastline. It was at this time that he named Cape Northumberland and Mount Gambier.

Like many places in South Australia the name, MacDonnell, comes from Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell who was the Governor of South Australia from 1855-1862. The town officially became a port on 4 April 1860. For the next twenty years, servicing the local district, it gained a reputation as one of the state's busiest ports (second only to Port Adelaide) shipping the wheat and wool from the local area around the world. Clippers arrived to carry the wheat and wool to England. In the 1880s the port became so important that the jetty was extended to reach 1700 feet into the harbour.

As part of the critical infrastructure of early maritime trading, the south east coast of South Australia has seen many a vessel come to grief in the area, and there is a rich maritime history along the coast and at the Maritime Museum. Today Port MacDonnell is famous for its lobsters, having the largest lobster fishing fleet in Australia.

The program will include lots of events and activities at Port MacDonnell including:

- *The Bay Easter Book Fair, Craft Market & Family Fun Day*
- *Vintage Tractor Pull & machinery display*
- *Street Parade*
- *"Back to the Bay" evening*
- *Heritage photographic displays*
- *AEAS Art Exhibition*
- *Professional Fishermen's Flare Demonstration*
- *Free Kids activities*
- *Dedication of Historical Park Heritage Signage and Path*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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