

# Port MacDonnell

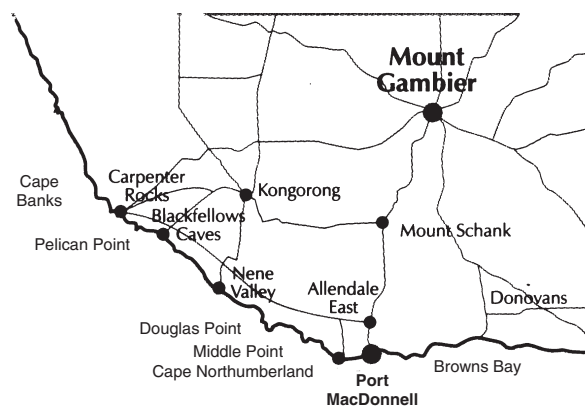
Port MacDonnell is located 450km south east of Adelaide and 460km west of Melbourne, and is the southernmost town in South Australia.

Council would like to acknowledge the traditional owners, the Bungandidj Aboriginies, who lived largely on the produce from the sea. Like Mount Gambier, which is only 28km 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.

More information on the district is available from Council's Rural Transaction Centre or Port MacDonnell Tourist Association located on the corner of Charles and Meylin Streets Port MacDonnell, or visit the Lady Nelson Visitor and Information Centre located on Jubilee Highway in Mount Gambier (phone 1800 087 187 toll free).



Produced by Recognition of  
Port MacDonnell & District  
Pioneers Advisory Committee  
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# Port MacDonnell HISTORIC TRAIL

*An invitation to discover historic Port MacDonnell*

MANY OF THESE BUILDINGS ARE PRIVATELY OWNED. PLEASE RESPECT THE OWNERS' PRIVACY.

their horses stabled. It was common to see jinkers and carts parked nearby.

**17. 49 Meylin Street**  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/MARITIME MUSEUM

Built in 1876 and used as council chambers until 1959. As one of the earliest to own its own chambers, the local council was the envy of others nearby. Now houses the Maritime Museum, offering a large display of artefacts from some of the 30 ships wrecked in the area, the story of the trading port and fishing industry.

**51 Meylin Street**  
THE INSTITUTE HALL

The original facade was covered in the late 1950s when extensions were built to upgrade the projection room in the loft and enlarge the library area. The Port MacDonnell Tourist Association obtained an Arts grant to employ an artist to paint the murals, depicting life in the township in the early years of settlement.

**18. Corner Meylin and Charles Street**  
THE OLD SCHOOL

Built in 1863, and served as a school until 1953. The period of maximum enrolment was in the late 1880s, when more than 100 children were instructed by one teacher. The original bell tower above the front porch was removed when it became unstable and dangerous. The bell is now located at Allendale East Area School.

**19. Corner Meylin and Charles Street**  
VOLUNTEER PARK

Signs provide details of the Miltstead Roller, the Road Ripper and the Water Tower.

**20. Church Street**  
ST THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Constructed by Thomas Perryman (mason), J Wright (carpenter), K MacIntosh (plumbing and glazing) and H Wheeler (painting). The cost was £245. The foundation stone was laid on 30th September 1896, and the opening service was 25 January 1897.

**21. 19 Bookey Street**  
WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

Methodism began in Port MacDonnell in 1860 with visits from Reverend William Bennett from Mount Gambier. Fundraising

**1. Corner Standish and Elizabeth Streets**

ARMAGH  
Built during early 1880s for Stephen Miltstead, using timber from the MacDonnell Bay lighthouse for the roof trusses.

**2. Next door to Armagh**  
BLACKSMITH'S SHOP

First opened 1860. The Miltstead family took over the business in 1876, and ran it up until WW1. The wheels made in the shop were reported as being of the best quality.

**3. 11 Iven Street**  
LADYMAN'S HOME

Mr Ladyman was a mechanic during the late 1800s. A quaint cottage.

**4. 12 Iven Street**  
NED FEAST'S HOME

Constructed from rubble, similar to many houses in the town.

**5. 4 French Street**  
LIGHTHOUSE COTTAGE

Originally one of three cottages built at Cape Northumberland. Believed to have been purchased for 26 pounds then relocated to its current site.

**6. 31 Sea Parade**

Built around 1900, a home typical of the era.

**7. Norfolk Island Pine Trees**

Mrs Fechner, who lived opposite planted three trees, in memory of her son Mervyn, Jack Hammond and Charlie Feast, who were drowned off Danger Point in 1941. One tree was removed when the road was re-aligned.

**8. 11 Pascoe Road**  
THE DOG ON THE ROOF

Well-known local boat builder, Mr Clarrie Hammond, collected this tree root c.1925. He fashioned the dog by adding a leg, eyes and tongue. It was moved from the original site on Sea Parade, when the old shed was demolished.

**9. 2 Pascoe Road**

Typical of homes built 1920-30.

**10. 13 Meylin Street**  
GRANNY WILLIAM'S HOME

Locals remember Granny Williams, her hair in a bun, wearing black stockings, slippers, and apron. She was the mother of Arthur, Matt and Ned, who were all fishermen and members of the life boat crew. The Williams family had a tannery, wool washing operation and were also rag and bone merchants.

**11. 21 Meylin Street**  
THE FLATS

This building provided accommodation from the 1860s for boatmen known as 'lightermen'. These men were employed to load and unload produce from the sailing vessels anchored approximately two kilometres offshore.

**12. 24 Meylin Street**  
GRANNY NORTHERN'S HOUSE

This was originally the residence of local shipping agent Thomas Must & Co. It also served as the bakehouse and store room for the larger shop which was located on Sea Parade.

**13. 29 Meylin Street**

Believed to have been built for Matthew Williams. The interior was lined with kerosene boxes. Note the decorated timber above the window. The owner had built a weatherboard shop behind the premises where he sold fresh fish, crayfish and fishing gear.

**14. 36 Meylin Street**  
BOARD AND LODGING

Built in the 1860s. It was managed by John and Ann Jenkins and comprised a tearoom, newsagency, bric-a-brac and boarding house business. Their son owned the Victoria Hotel, three doors away.

**15. 40 Meylin Street**  
VICTORIA HOTEL

A dinner and ball was held to mark the opening on 17 March 1862. Initially one of three hotels operating in Port MacDonnell.

**16. 47 Meylin Street**  
CHAFF STORE

Owned by James Perryman and his sons Amos and Joshua. A number of stables were built behind the home, where travellers paid threepence per night to have

commenced in 1863 to finance a chapel, with the first stone laid in 1866.

**22. 17 Bookey Street**

**FRIENDLY SOCIETIES HALL**

Completed in 1871 at a cost of £250. For 60 years it served as the centre of public entertainment.

**23. 15 Bookey Street**

**EMBURY'S STORE**

Operated as a general store, selling kerosene, tobacco, matches, flour confectionery etc.

**24. 11 Bookey Street**

**LATTIN'S CORNER**

A home built from wood salvaged from shipwrecks c. 1865. It has in recent years been reclad, so that the unevenness of the original cladding is no longer visible.

**25. 48 Milstead Street**

**PASCOE'S HOME**

A fine Georgian-style home owned at one time by the Pascoe family who operated a large store on Sea Parade. Previously used as a boarding house by William Kekwick, who had travelled with McDouall Stuart on his expeditions in 1860. Kekwick was only here for a few years before returning to Adelaide in 1871.

**26. 3 Charles Street**

**CUSTOMS HOUSE**

Completed in 1863 at a cost of 2605 pounds. Used as the customs house, courthouse, telegraph office, policeman's quarters, prison cells and stables and later as residence for both the postmaster and schoolmaster.

Adjacent to the Customs house is the WAR MEMORIAL.

On Sea Parade is the GERMAN MINE, washed ashore at Port MacDonnell in 1943.

**27. 58 Meylin Street**

**OLD STABLES**

Housed the team of fine horses belonging to the Lattin family.

**28. 71 Meylin Street**

One of Port MacDonnell's earliest homes. Note that it does not face the road.

**29. 75 Meylin Street**

**MERCEDES**

First owner was Mr Morgan Taylor. The Presbyterians took it over in the early 1900s. The Sisters of Mercy purchased it some years later when they left Argentina due to an uprising. They named the house Mercedes, which means "mercy" in Spanish. It was used as a summer retreat for many years.

**30. 72 Meylin Street**

A simple five-roomed home built in the late 1890s.

**31. 85 Meylin Street**

**CHARLIE HOPWOOD'S HOME**

Constructed in the late 1800s for £40, using timber because it was cheaper than stone.

**32. 89 Meylin Street**

Formerly built with a loft above a simple wooden door (where the window is now situated).

**33. 82 Meylin Street**

Built late 1800s. Double fronted house with limestone quoins, featured cast iron lacework (which have been removed), timber posts, hipped corrugated iron roof with a moulded chimney.

**34. 95 Meylin Street**

Typical of the homes built in the late 1800s.

**35. 47 Elizabeth Street**

This prefabricated home arrived by ship from England, c 1900. Believed to have landed at Port MacDonnell by sea.

**36. Clark Park**

A quiet picnic spot that has been enjoyed by many generations. Toilets and picnic tables are available. Pleasant walking tracks are marked from this area into adjacent Germein Reserve.

**37. Germein Reserve**

Named in honour of the first lighthouse keeper, Ben Germein, this reserve features boardwalks and tracks through natural bushland. Walking maps available at the entrance to the reserve.

**38. Dingley Dell**

Home of well-known poet Adam Lindsay Gordon. A lovely garden surrounds the cottage. Open for tours.

**39. Wagon Wheel Tracks**

The constant passage of bullock teams passing along the coast to and from Mount Gambier has left wheel ruts over the rocks which are still visible at low tide.

**40. Cape Northumberland Lighthouse**

Built in 1881 to replace the first lighthouse. Now automated. Private access road.

**MacDonnell Lighthouse Site**

When built in 1859 on the high rocky crest of the cape, the square tower rose 28 feet above the roof of the adjoining dwelling. It was partly dismantled and then left to the elements when replaced by the current lighthouse. The remains of the lighthouse are visible from the top of the hill, where a view of the spectacular coast line may also be enjoyed.

**Most Southerly Point**

Walk from the car park to this area to view the fairy penguin colony. The remains of the rifle range are also visible.

**Bicentenary Tower**

Built in 2000 to celebrate the sighting and naming of Mount Gambier, Mount Schank, Cape Banks and Cape Northumberland by Lt. James Grant on 3 December 1800.

**Cemetery**

Resting place of locals since 1860s. There are two sections in this cemetery. At the rear of the main cemetery the names of Edwards, French, Kenneth McKenzie, William Pascoe, Rudolph Wilke and many other local families can be found.

**41. Woolwash Historical Reserve**

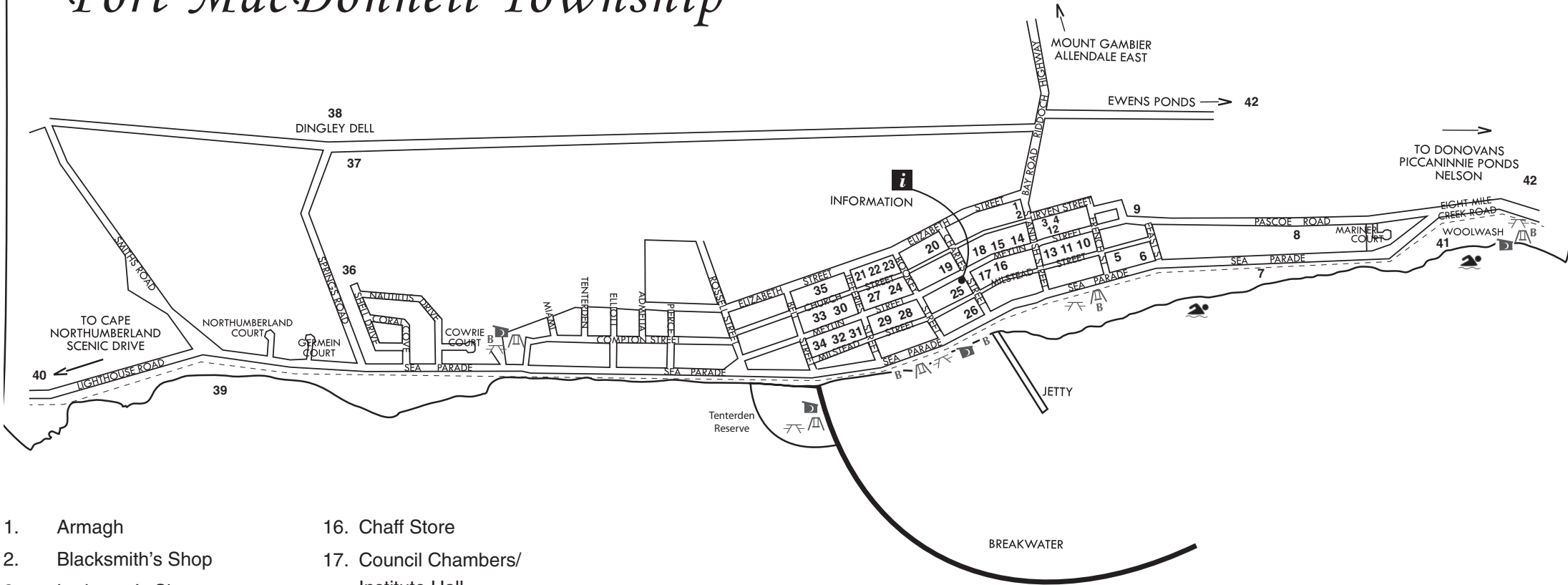
See the memorial to Captain Broadfoot, murdered on the wreck of the Jane Lovett in 1852 (in front of Sailing Club). Walk along the Pioneers Path and read information about the early pioneers and history of the district. Visit the Woolbales and interpretive centre presenting information about the Cress Creek, once used for washing of wool for trade.

**42. Ewens Ponds**

Conservation Park, crystal clear water flows to the sea through Eight Mile Creek. Scuba diving and snorkelling with permit.

**For more information on Port MacDonnell, please visit the Rural Transaction Centre or Tourist Information Centre located on the corner of Charles and Meylin Streets.**

# Port MacDonnell Township



- 1. Armagh
- 2. Blacksmith's Shop
- 3. Ladyman's Shop
- 4. Ned Feast's Home
- 5. Lighthouse Cottage
- 6. 31 Sea Parade
- 7. Norfolk Island Pine Trees
- 8. The Dog on the Roof
- 9. 2 Pascoe Road
- 10. Granny William's Home
- 11. The Flats
- 12. Granny Northern's House
- 13. Meylin Street
- 14. Board and Lodging
- 15. Victoria Hotel
- 16. Chaff Store
- 17. Council Chambers/Institute Hall
- 18. The Old School
- 19. Volunteer Park
- 20. St. Thomas Anglican Church
- 21. Wesleyan Methodist Church
- 22. Friendly Societies Hall
- 23. Embury's Store
- 24. Lattin's Corner
- 25. Pascoe's Home
- 26. Customs House
- 27. Old Stables

- 28. 71 Meylin Street
- 29. Mercedes
- 30. 72 Meylin Street
- 31. Charlie Hopwood's Home
- 32. 89 Meylin Street
- 33. Alby Feast Home
- 34. 95 Meylin Street
- 35. 47 Elizabeth Street
- 36. Clark Park
- 37. Germein Reserve
- 38. Dingley Dell
- 39. Wagon Wheel Tracks

- 40. Cape Northumberland Lighthouse
- MacDonnell Lighthouse Site
- Most Southerly Point
- Bicentenary Tower
- Cemetery
- 41. Woolwash Historical Reserve
- 42. Ewens Ponds

## Legend

- Playground
- Toilets
- Picnic Bench
- Bike & Walk Track
- Swimming
- Barbecue