

Port MacDonnell

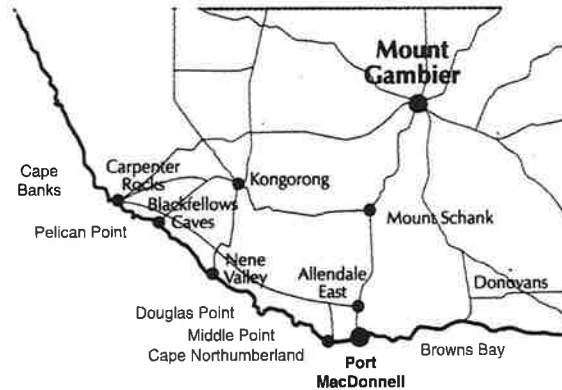
Port MacDonnell is located 450km south east of Adelaide and 460km west of Melbourne, and is the southernmost town in South Australia.

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.

1. Corner Standish and Elizabeth Streets

ARMAGH

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

2. Next door to Armagh

BLACKSMITH'S SHOP

First opened 1860. The Milstead 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 Irven Street

LADYMAN'S HOME

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

4. 12 Irven 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

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 façade 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 Milstead 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