

**The second Kinchela Bakery** which was established here by Ray Wright and run by Athol Collins in the 1940's.

**The Kinchela Cheese Factory** - Thomas J Rowe was born in Kinchela in 1874, he attended Hawkesbury Agricultural College, obtained a degree in cheese making, then returned to Kinchela to establish a cheese factory behind the family home



*Kinchela Cheese Factory with Tom Rowe and Alf Sanders in 1912.*

at the junction of the Macleay River and Kinchela Creek. He sold out to Arthur Shelton and moved to Frederickton to start another factory.

**The Bakery** - The first baker was Ronnie Johnston. Ray Wright bought the bakery in 1932 and delivered the bread to the surrounding district by a horse-drawn cart until he acquired a Bedford van.

**On the junction of Kinchela Creek** and the Macleay River was the site of the Good Templar's Hall, built in the late 1800's. Mr Meehan bought it from the Good Templar's and in the late 1930's sold it to a local committee. It was demolished in the 1960's. The Hall was used for dancing, balls, concerts, travelling shows and picture nights.

**A wharf was on the river** opposite the site of Jamieson's Store. Before the rail transport reached



*The Old Butchery.*

Kempsey, all goods were shipped to and from Sydney.

*I hope you have enjoyed your walk through this picturesque village.*

**About 1 km downstream** there was another wharf called "Meehan's" which was the main wharf for the village. The first school (called Summer Island school) was further downstream where there are camphor laurel trees in the paddock, and the ferry was where there is now a boat ramp.



*The Good Templar's Hall.*

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



step back in

*time*



Walks in History

# KINCHELA

MACLEAY RIVER

*This is a street walk only.*

*You do not have permission to enter private property.*

Suggest parking on the old roadway on the right when you turn off the South West Rocks road into Riverside Drive. Riverside Drive was the original South West Rocks road before the new bridge was opened in 1985.

The Village was gazetted in 1885 but the locality was known by the name Kinchela long before, as was the creek which enters the Macleay River close by.

**With the river** on your right walk to No 8. This is the site of Charles Ball's General Store which was established in 1895 and the Post Office was incorporated in 1937. The Post Office Store remained in the Ball family until it closed in 1994 and was removed. The Ball home remains on the block.

Continue on passing Alan Swan's garage and residence, which operated from 1950 to the 1990's.

**No. 24 was owned** by William Fairweather in 1915. The slate roof on this historic home was replaced by tiles after a hailstorm a few years ago.

**The Methodist Church** is now a private residence. This is the third church on the site and was opened in 1913. The first church was a wooden slab building erected in 1865, with the second church being built in 1878. In 1911, the Kinchela Tennis Club built a tennis court on the back portion of the grounds. The third church was opened at the same site in 1913 with the Argus Newspaper



*Kinchela Methodist Church.*



*Balls General Store.*

stating "it was the best church outside Kempsey, a handsome structure with cathedral windows and illuminated by acetylene gas". The Church was closed in 1986.

**Next door to the church** was Mr A D Johnston, who owned the BIG STORE and in 1907 the Post Office was transferred from George Wickham Rowe and remained here until Balls purchased the store and transferred the Office.

**Next door was the first** Post Office which was opened in 1880 by John Rowe in his store. His allowance was five pounds a year. The mail was brought from Kempsey twice a week.

**Continue to** - The Butchery - built in the early 1930's by Joe Barnett, the shop and residence still stands. It was closed in the 1990's.

**The street comes to an end** at this point and the new bridge carries the South West Rocks road over Kinchela Creek. The first bridge was built in 1893. It was a timber bridge with a tower which acted as a jack to lift the centre span to allow droghers to enter Kinchela Creek.

In 1923 the tower collapsed as teredo (water cobra) had undermined the supports. In 1925 another



*The original Kinchela Bridge.*

bridge was opened by Mr Vincent the MLA, and was used until it was replaced in June 1985.

**There is a walkway** under the bridge which you may like to explore and extend your walk to the eastern side of the bridge and pass the site of the Blacksmith's shop. Mr Coleman was the early wheelwright and carpenter in the 1880's and worked in conjunction with Mr Pollock the blacksmith.

**St. Andrew's Anglican Church** has been extensively renovated and is now a family home. It was built in 1899 using local material, including red mahogany and cedar, the cathedral windows were lead-light with diamonds of coloured glass and Gloria Petrol Lighting lit the church.

**St. Andrew's was closed** in 1980 after eighty one years of worship. The bell which came from Trial Bay Gaol in 1903 now hangs in the Anglican Church at South West Rocks.

*Turn at this point to return to your car. On the bank of Kinchela Creek you will pass the site of where:*