Foreword

This is the fourth year the Port Macquarie-Hastings and Kempsey Shire Councils have joined forces during NSW National Trust’s Heritage Festival.

The Hastings and Macleay regions are unique communities but both boast natural beauty, significant heritage items and history, cultural diversity and an enviable way of life. We also are united under the same Australian sky and the Southern Cross that is a potent, and historic, symbol of Australia.

This year’s theme, ‘Our Place in Space – Under the Southern Cross’ ties in well with 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy and celebrates one of Australia’s most highly cited sciences. The theme is locally expressed in many ways including night-time tours of heritage sites and astronomy nights at Port Macquarie’s Observatory.

The Heritage Festival is an important annual celebration. It’s an opportunity to feel and experience our heritage first-hand through a wide array of tours, displays, performances and demonstrations. It also highlights how history has shaped our current communities and environment.

Our Councils and communities share a desire to protect our unique heritage for future generations to experience and enjoy. This is only possible with the help of many people throughout our communities and for that, we and future generations are thankful.
DAY 1 – Saturday 4th April

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS AND KEMPSEY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Time: 10.30am - 2.00pm.

The Official opening of the Festival will take place at 10.30am.

Place: Mid North Coast Maritime Museum, 2-6 William Street, Port Macquarie.

Cost: Free entry to the grounds and the opening of the Festival. Admission into the Museum Adults $4.00, Seniors $3.00, Families $10.00 and children under 6 years of age are free. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.

Be there when the 48th Regiment of Foot and their cannon welcome in the Festival. Listen to our guest speakers linking the history of the Mid North Coast into our modern day lives. Join the free tours of Flagstaff Hill and the story telling of our very knowledgeable guides and enjoy the music and entertainment and possibly treats from days gone by. The Official Opening of the Festival will take place at 10.30am.

THE TRIAL OF GOLDY LOCKS (Mock Trial)

Time: 2.00pm (about 1 hour duration).

Place: Historic Courthouse, cnr Clarence and Hay Streets, Port Macquarie.

Cost: Adults $4.00 and Children 5-12 years of age $1.00. Wheelchair accessible.

Bookings: Essential as numbers limited. Phone 6584 1818 between 10.00am – 3.00pm. Tickets must be picked up by 1.45pm.

Try taking a very good looking but tarty film star, a cranky Mrs Bear, a hen-pecked Mr Bear, a not-so-intelligent police officer and you get quite an interesting string of events. This trial runs along the lines of the old story ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’ but there are no bears, just bumbling actors, with Mrs Bear really outdoing herself against the hapless Goldy. A good yarn.

RUINS BY STARLIGHT (Walking Tour, Spotlighting and Astronomical Viewing)

Time: 7.00pm - 9.30pm.


Meet at the gate at south end of Ruins Way, request map when booking.

Cost: Adults $13.20 and Children over 6 years of age $5.50. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.

Bookings: Essential. Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre 6581 8000.

It is suggested that you wear sturdy walking shoes or joggers, bring insect repellent and a torch.

An event for all the family to enjoy, involving a variety of night activities and a relaxing cup of billy tea. View the night sky through telescopes whilst volunteers from the Port Macquarie Astronomical Association talk about the constellations and all things astronomical. Go spotlighting with a national park Ranger and learn about the night creatures that inhabit the surrounding bush. Step back in time through the convict built ruins and meet the people who once lived in the Innes mansion during its glory years.
DAY 2 – Sunday 5th April

There are no heritage events planned for this day as the Country Energy Australian Ironman Triathlon will be held throughout Port Macquarie, commencing at 6.30am at Westport Park. Competitors have 17 hours to complete the 3.8km swim, 180km bike ride and 42.2km run, with elite competitors completing the course in just over 8 hours. The key vantage points include Westport Park, Pacific Drive and Matthew Flinders Drive. Additional race information or course details can be viewed at www.ironmanoz.com. So come along and support the competitors.

DAY 3 – Monday 6th April

UP THE CREEK AND INTO THE BUSH (Walking Tour)

Time: 9.30am (2.5 hours duration).
Place: Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park, depart picnic area Gordon Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: $5.00 per person.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited.
Phone 6582 0818.
Guides: Friends of Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park. It is suggested that you wear a hat walking shoes or joggers and bring a water bottle.

Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park has lovely walks along earthen tracks through Eucalypts, Banksias and rainforest trees and along boardwalks through Paperbarks, Swamp Oaks and Sedges. As well there are areas of historical significance – did you know that?

Enjoy this guided tour and hear the wonderful stories about the Park in the heart of Port Macquarie’s Town Centre.

CAMDEN HAVEN PILOT STATION (Seminar & Walking Tour)

Time: 10.00am (1.5 hours duration).
Place: Camden Head Pilot Station, Camden Head Road, Dunbogan.
Cost: $20.00 per person with all proceeds going towards the maintenance of the Pilot Station. Includes refreshments.
Bookings: Essential. Phone 6559 6699 between normal business hours.

Historian and Heritage Consultant, Elaine van Kempen, will give an exciting and informative talk on the Camden Haven Pilot Station. The talk will include a short history of the Pilot Station circa 1890 to the present day. Of particular interest will be the sympathetic refurbishment of the heritage listed buildings and their subsequent adaptive re-use. This will be followed by a tour of the cottage and surrounds.
DAY 4 – Tuesday 7th April

WHERE THE SEA MEETS THE SKY – BLAIR RESERVE & LIGHTHOUSE BEACH (Walking Tour)

Time: 9.00am (2 hours duration).
Place: Lighthouse Beach, Matthew Flinders Drive, (Observation Deck opposite Watonga Street), Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation. Parking available in Matthew Flinders Drive at the intersection of Watonga Street.
Bookings: Essential. Phone 6582 5055 or 6582 1009.
It is suggested that you wear a hat and sturdy walking shoes or joggers and bring a water bottle. Bring your camera.
Guides: Tony Bischoff and Steve Cartwright.

The Lighthouse Beach and Blair Reserve restoration sites incorporate the result of intense voluntary labour and know how. Previously sites of mass weed infestation and land erosion, both man-made and natural, the sites have become home to nature’s creatures.
The dune restoration work at Lighthouse Beach has ensured the future of the shoreline providing a natural barrier and beauty in this location, while Blair Reserve is now an invigorated natural koala corridor and home to many birds and other creatures.

CONVICT LIME KILNS – (Drive and Walking Tour)

Time: 10.00am (4 hours duration).
Place: Kumbatine National Park, off Pacific Highway, 12 km south of Kempsey.
Self transport to intersection of Pacific Highway and Smiths Creek Road Kundabung, get map when booking.
Once there transport is tagalong and share with limited places in National Parks and Wildlife Service vehicle.
Approx 20 kms driving over unsealed roads involved.
Cost: Adults $11.00, Children under 16 years of age $5.50, Family $27.50 (2 adults and 2 children).
Bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and cake provided.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited.
Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre 6581 8000.
For further information contact National Parks and Wildlife Services Mid North Coast Regional Office on 6586 8315.
You must wear sturdy walking shoes or boots, trousers and long sleeve tops as protection from undergrowth and a hat.
A water bottle and insect repellent are recommended.
Walking distance approximately 2 kilometres along bush tracks to various kilns. Bushwalking style – no facilities and bring small folding chair if desired.
This little known site, nestled in dense bushland in Kumbatine National Park, contains the remains of some of the earliest convict built lime kilns still existing in Australia.
DAY 4 – Tuesday 7th April (continued)

TRIAL BAY – A HARBOUR OF REFUGE (Walking Tour)

Time: 4.30pm – 6.30pm.
Place: Arakoon State Conservation Area, Cardwell Street, Arakoon (near South West Rocks). Meet at entrance gates.
Cost: Adults $12.00, Children $6.00, Family $30.00 (2 adults and 2 children).
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited. Phone 6566 6168.

The wearing of covered shoes is essential.

Before satellite navigation, sailors relied on the sun and the stars to find their way. Find out about the perils of shipping and the chequered history of the ‘Harbour of Refuge’.

Weather permitting, view the Southern Cross from the gaol watchtower overlooking beautiful Trial Bay whilst on a guided tour of the historic gaol.

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Time: 6.00pm – 8.30pm.
Place: Port Macquarie Historical Museum, 22 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Adults $5.00, Concession $3.00 and Children $2.00.

Wheelchair accessible with assistance in most parts of the Museum.

Visit the historical museum by night with its 14 rooms of history and heritage displays and meet up with some interesting and colourful characters from Port Macquarie’s past. One night only.

DAY 5 – Wednesday 8th April

THE SKY’S THE LIMIT – LILYPOND RESERVE (Walking Tour)

Time: 9.00am (1 hour duration).
Place: The Lilypond, cnr Koala Street and Mimosa Drive, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Parking available in Mimosa Drive.
Bookings: Essential. Phone 6582 3500.
Guides: Ken and Yvonne Errington.

The Lilypond had fallen to the ravages of nature’s weeds and nasties. The sky was the limit as climbing vines, weeds, shrubs and trees had engulfed this area. Fortunately, the Port Macquarie Landcare Group saw the potential of regeneration and restoration and the Lilypond Reserve now has towering native trees reaching for the skies. See, hear and feel the wonders of nature and its creatures as you enjoy this guided tour.
## ST THOMAS’ CHURCH – THE CHURCH IN CELESTIAL SPACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>9.45am – 11.00am (concert) 11.00am – 4.00pm (inspections).</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>St Thomas’ Church, Hay Street, Port Macquarie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Gold coin donation appreciated.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Devonshire teas available between 9.30am – 3.30pm in the Colonial meeting rooms $3.00 per person.</td>
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<td>Sausage sizzle available between 11.00am – 1.30pm in the grounds of the Church $3.00 per person.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wheelchair accessible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enquiries</td>
<td>Phone 6584 1033.</td>
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**Enjoy this concert – ‘Music of the Elements’ by the wonderful St Columba’s lintombi Zicula Choir in the grounds of this convict built church, the fifth oldest Anglican Church still in use in Australia. The concert will be followed with a performance from the St Columba’s concert band ensemble. Then, come into the Church and listen to the history of this remarkable building, the early worshippers and the lives of those assigned to its construction. The Church retains original family pew boxes, built with high sides and raised to protect free families from the gaze of convict worshippers.**

## BEAUTIFUL THINGS PAST AND PRESENT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>9.30am – 3.30pm.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>St Thomas’ Church Missionary Rooms, Hay Street, Port Macquarie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Gold coin donation appreciated. Wheelchair accessible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enquiries</td>
<td>Phone 6584 1033.</td>
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**View an interesting display of gowns, napery and paintings, just to name a few, from the past to the present.**

## 1662 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER SERVICE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>11.00am.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Chapel of Christ the Healer (former Surgeon’s Dispensary in the grounds of St Thomas’), Hay Street, Port Macquarie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Free. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enquiries</td>
<td>Phone 6584 1033.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**This Holy Communion service is taken from the 1662 book of common prayer – celebration of the Lord’s Supper according to the ancient rite.**
CONVICT CELLAR TOUR

Time: 1.00pm – 4.00pm.
Place: St Thomas’ Church Administration Centre, Hay Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation appreciated.
Enquiries: Phone 6584 1033.

View the servant’s quarters of the Colonial Surgeon’s residence pre 1847. These rooms are complete with fireplaces and a baker’s oven. The well, associated with the residence, still remains in the garden.

MAPPING YOUR WAY AROUND FAMILY HISTORY – FROM THE STARS TO THE HORIZON

Time: 10.00am (5 hours duration).
Place: Library, cnr Gordon and Grant Streets, Port Macquarie.
Cost: $10.00 per person.
Bookings: Essential. Phone 6583 3360.

Maps are a valuable resource and can be extremely helpful when tracing your family history. Carl Bennett Council Officer will help you discover how to use map resources, both locally and via the internet, to assist with your research projects. You will also learn how maps have changed over time, from their origins and dependence upon astronomy, to today’s high tech mapping products.

GHOSTLY TRAILS – THE RED HOT MURDER OF 1830 (Walking Tour)

Time: 7.30pm (1.5 hours duration).
Place: Timbertown, Oxley Highway, Wauchope.
Cost: Adults $15.00 and Children $10.00. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Bookings: Essential. Show goes on if it’s wet. No refunds. Phone 6586 1940 between normal business hours.

Come and experience a trail of suspense by eerie lantern light through the historical village of Timbertown. Journey back to the 1800s and the beginnings of European settlement in this region. Huddle close, as our ghostly guides will re-enact historical blood curdling stories of times gone past. A walking lantern-led journey into the darkness of Timbertown village, with our resident ghoul. Let the ghostly guide lead you to the blacksmith’s workshop and the historical church for a spine-tingling tale of murder and suspense.
This is a thrilling evening of spooky family entertainment where anything could happen …. and usually does.
DAY 6 – Thursday 9th April

HERITAGE UNDERGOING CHANGE (Walking Tour)

Time: 10.00am (2 hours duration).
Place: All Saints Anglican Church, Kemp Street (opposite Railway Station), West Kempsey.
Cost: $6.00 per person. Mostly wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited. Enquiries phone 6562 7572 or 6562 8837 or book in person at the Macleay River Historical Society Kempsey between normal business hours. It is suggested that you wear a hat, sturdy walking shoes or joggers and bring a water bottle.

See first hand the preservation of two historic Kempsey buildings – the All Saints Anglican Church and the Showground Pavilion and surrounds. Those involved in carrying out the conservation works will provide an insight into the projects and discuss problems encountered during the works.

BAGO BLUFF TOUR (Drive and Walking Tour)

Time: 10.00am (4 hours duration).
Place: Bago Vineyards, Milligans Road off Bago Road, Wauchope. Parking available at Vineyards. Self transport to Bago Vineyard. Once there transport is tagalong and share with limited places in National Parks and Wildlife Service vehicle. Maximum number 20 persons.
Cost: Adults $11.00 and Children under 16 years of age $5.50, Family $27.50 (2 adults and 2 children).
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited. Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre 6581 8000. You must wear walking shoes with treads soles. Reasonable mobility is required for the lookout walk. Bushwalking style – no facilities and bring small folding chair if desired.
Guide: Susan Phillips. For further information contact National Parks and Wildlife Services Mid North Coast Regional Office on (02) 6586 8315.

Come and experience the majestic views from the summit of Bago Bluff. Stroll to a rocky lookout, hear local stories and learn about timber getting last century.

DAY 7 – Friday 10th April (Good Friday)

ROTO HOUSE BY MOONLIGHT

Time: 7.30pm – 9.00pm.
Place: Historic Roto House, Macquarie Nature Reserve, Roto Place, off Lord Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Adults $11.00, Children over 6 years of age $5.00.
Bookings: Essential. Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre 6581 8000. It is suggested that you wear walking shoes and bring insect repellent.

Take a stroll under the full moon through the Macquarie Nature Reserve and learn about the scientific and spiritual impact of the moon and how it has influenced different cultures over thousands of years. Then step back in time and enjoy a guided tour of this historic building and view an exhibition of Lunar Photography. Finish the evening with a relaxing supper in the moonlit garden whilst listening to some old bush poetry inspired by our night sky.
DAY 8 – Saturday 11th April

THE TRIAL OF GOLDY LOCKS (Mock Trial)

Time: 2.00pm (about 1 hour duration).
Place: Historic Courthouse,
cnr Clarence and Hay Streets, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Adults $4.00 and Children 5-12 years of age $1.00.
Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited.
Phone 6584 1818 between 10.00am – 3.00pm.
Tickets must be picked up by 1.45pm.

Try taking a very good looking but tarty film star, a cranky Mrs Bear, a hen-pecked Mr Bear, a not-so-intelligent police officer and you get quite an interesting string of events. This trial runs along the lines of the old story ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’ but there are no bears, just bumbling actors, with Mrs Bear really outdoing herself against the hapless Goldy. A good yarn.

A SCOTTISH HOUSE UNDER SOUTHERN SKIES – INNES RUINS TOURS (Walking Tour)

Time: 2.00pm (2.5 hours duration).
Meet at the gate at south end of Ruins Way, request map when booking.
Cost: Adults $13.20, Children $5.50, Family $33.00 (2 adults and 3 children).
Groups of 10 or more $11 per person.
Includes morning or afternoon tea.
Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited.
Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre 6581 8000.
Special programs for school groups NPWS Discovery 6586 8315.
It is suggested that you wear sturdy walking shoes or joggers and a hat and bring a water bottle.

During the 1830s and 1840s, Major Archibald Clunes Innes developed a wide range of agricultural enterprises throughout the Port Macquarie-Hastings and New England areas. He was, for a brief time, one of the colony’s richest men. His house was constructed in several stages and grew to assume the proportions of a grand country mansion. Enjoy this National Parks and Wildlife Service guided tour of the ruins, one of the oldest surviving brick structures in northern NSW, and the fascinating story of its former inhabitants.
DAY 9 – Sunday 12th April

THE UNIVERSE – YOURS TO DISCOVER

Time: 1.00pm – 5.00pm.
(30 minutes duration – screen presentation and telescope viewing).
Place: Astronomical Observatory,
(Rotary Park overlooking Town Beach)
Stewart Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation.
Enquiries: Phone 6585 5254.

The first astronomical sightings in Port Macquarie were of the Great Comet of 1843, recorded by Annabella Boswell at Innes House. The local name Transit Hill, recalls the 1882 observation site of William MacDonnell to view the transit of Venus. Come and enjoy a wonderful presentation and telescope viewing of space at our Observatory which was opened in 1965 by Government Astronomer Dr Harley Wood.

DAY 10 – Monday 13th April (Easter Monday)

THE TRIAL OF GOLDY LOCKS (Mock Trial)

Time: 2.00pm (about 1 hour duration).
Place: Historic Courthouse,
cnr Clarence and Hay Streets, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Adults $4.00 and Children 5-12 years of age $1.00.
Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited.
Phone 6584 1818 between 10.00am – 3.00pm.
Tickets must be picked up by 1.45pm.

Try taking a very good looking but tarty film star, a cranky Mrs Bear, a hen-pecked Mr Bear, a not-so-intelligent police officer and you get quite an interesting string of events. This trial runs along the lines of the old story ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’ but there are no bears, just bumbling actors, with Mrs Bear really outdoing herself against the hapless Goldy. A good yarn.
DAY 11 – Tuesday 14th April

WHERE THE SEA MEETS THE SKY – BLAIR RESERVE & LIGHTHOUSE BEACH (Walking Tour)

Time: 9.00am (2 hours duration).
Place: Lighthouse Beach Matthew Flinders Drive, (Observation Deck opposite Watonga Street), Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation. Parking available in Matthew Flinders Drive at the intersection of Watonga Street.
Bookings: Essential. Phone 6582 5055 or 6582 1009.
Guides: Tony Bischoff and Steve Cartwright.

The Lighthouse Beach and Blair Reserve restoration sites incorporate the result of intense voluntary labour and know how. Previously sites of mass weed infestation and land erosion, both man-made and natural, the sites have become home to nature’s creatures. The dune restoration work at Lighthouse Beach has ensured the future of the shoreline providing a natural barrier and beauty in this location, while Blair Reserve is now an invigorated natural koala corridor and home to many birds and other creatures.

YESTERDAY’S HISTORY BY NIGHT (Walking Tour)

Time: 6.00pm (about 1.5 hours duration).
Place: Departs Port Macquarie Historical Museum, 22 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Adults $5.00.
Bookings: Essential. Phone Port Macquarie Historical Society on 6583 1108 or email pmmuseum@midcoast.com.au.

It is suggested that you wear sturdy walking shoes and bring a torch.

A guided night walking tour around Port Macquarie’s historic sites in and around the CBD area.

DAY 12 – Wednesday 15th April

THE SKY’S THE LIMIT – LILYPOND RESERVE (Walking Tour)

Time: 9.00am (1 hour duration).
Place: The Lilypond, cnr Koala Street and Mimosa Drive, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation. Wheelchair accessible with assistance. Parking available in Mimosa Drive.
Bookings: Essential. Phone 6582 3500.
Guides: Ken and Yvonne Errington.

The Lilypond had fallen to the ravages of nature’s weeds and nasties. The sky was the limit as climbing vines, weeds, shrubs and trees had engulfed this area. Fortunately, the Port Macquarie Landcare Group saw the potential of regeneration and restoration and the Lilypond Reserve now has towering native trees reaching for the skies. See, hear and feel the wonders of nature and its creatures as you enjoy this guided tour.
DAY 12 – Wednesday 15th April (continued)

**BIRPAI – THE THOMAS DICK WALKABOUT (Bus Tour)**

**Time:** 10.00am (5 hours duration).

**Place:** departing from bus bay at Town Green Horton Street, Port Macquarie.

**Cost:** $25.00 per person. Includes light lunch of sandwiches, tea/coffee and cake.

**Tour stops:** Shelly Beach, Lighthouse Beach, Lake Cathie, Rainbow Beach, Bonny Hills and North Brother Mountain.

**Bookings:** Essential to book before 9 April. Phone 6581 8109.

It is suggested that you wear a hat, walking shoes or joggers and bring a water bottle.

**Between 1910 and 1920 Thomas Dick captured photographic images of local Aborigines re-enacting pre-colonial life in and around the Port Macquarie-Hastings. This tour, led by Birpai elders, will trace the footsteps of Thomas Dick and the Birpai families to some of the more accessible sites before culminating at the sacred Dooragan (North Brother Mountain). Apart from gaining a glimpse into the lives of Thomas Dick and the Birpai families, participants will gain knowledge of traditional middens, quarries and ochre sites, as well as other facets of Gooi heritage.**

**SMOKY CAPE LIGHTHOUSE TOUR (Walking Tour)**

**Time:** 11.30am (1 hour duration).

**Place:** The Old Stables, Smoky Cape Lighthouse Hat Head National Park, Lighthouse Road, Arakoon. (via South West Rocks).

**Cost:** Free. Includes a light lunch of sandwiches, tea/coffee and cake.

**Bookings:** Essential as numbers limited. Phone 6566 6301. It is suggested that you wear sturdy walking shoes or joggers and a hat.

**Enjoy this guided tour and discover the heritage and mystery of this working lighthouse and the adjoining keepers cottages.**

This Heritage listed lighthouse, built in 1891, is the most elevated lighthouse in New South Wales and is managed by The Department of Environment and Conservation. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority operates the light as a navigational aid.

The cottages now operate as a B&B and cottage accommodation.

**THE UNIVERSE – YOURS TO DISCOVER**

**Time:** 1.00pm – 5.00pm (30 minutes duration – screen presentation and telescope viewing).

**Place:** Astronomical Observatory, (Rotary Park overlooking Town Beach) Stewart Street, Port Macquarie.

**Cost:** Gold coin donation.

**Enquiries:** Phone 6585 5254.

The first astronomical sightings in Port Macquarie were of the Great Comet of 1843, recorded by Annabella Boswell at Innes House. The local name Transit Hill, recalls the 1882 observation site of William MacDonnell to view the transit of Venus.

Come and enjoy a wonderful presentation and telescope viewing of space at our Observatory which was opened in 1965 by Government Astronomer Dr Harley Wood.
DAY 12 – Wednesday 15th April (continued)

HERITAGE CONCERT

Time: 2.00pm (1.5 hours duration).
Place: Wesleyan Chapel, Horton Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation.
Wheelchair accessible with assistance.

Enjoy this concert, in this historic chapel c1845, presented by a variety of local artists with talents in vocal, choral, instrumental and speech.

GHOSTLY TRAILS – THE RED HOT MURDER OF 1830 (Walking Tour)

Time: 7.30pm (1.5 hours duration).
Place: Timbertown, Oxley Highway, Wauchope.
Cost: Adults $15.00 and children $10.00. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Bookings: Essential. Show goes on if it’s wet. No refunds. Phone 6586 1940 between normal business hours.

Come and experience a trail of suspense by eerie lantern light through the historical village of Timbertown. Journey back to the 1800s and the beginnings of European settlement in this region. Huddle close, as our ghostly guides will re-enact historical blood curdling stories of times gone past. A walking lantern-led journey into the darkness of Timbertown village, with our resident ghoul. Let the ghostly guide lead you to the blacksmith’s workshop and the historical church for a spine-tingling tale of murder and suspense. This is a thrilling evening of spooky family entertainment where anything could happen … and usually does.

DAY 13 – Thursday 16th April

UP THE CREEK AND INTO THE BUSH (Walking Tour)

Time: 9.30am (2.5 hours duration).
Place: Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park, depart picnic area Gordon Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: $5.00 per person.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited. Phone 6582 0818.
Guides: Friends of Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park.

It is suggested that you wear a hat, walking shoes or joggers and bring a water bottle.

Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park has lovely walks along earthen tracks through Eucalypts, Banksias and rainforest trees and along boardwalks through Paperbarks, Swamp Oaks and Sedges. As well there are areas of historical significance – did you know that? Enjoy this guided tour and hear the wonderful stories about the Park in the heart of Port Macquarie’s Town Centre.
DAY 13 – Thursday 16th April (continued)

AKUBRA FACTORY TOUR – ‘THE MAKING OF AN ICON’ (Walking Tour)

Time: 10.00am (1 hour duration).
Place: Entrance gate Akubra Factory, South Street, Kempsey.
Cost: Adults $15.00, school students free. Includes morning tea.
Bookings: Essential. There will be 3 tours. Tours are limited to 10 persons per tour.
Phone Loomis Financial 6562 2295. It is suggested that you wear sturdy walking shoes or joggers.

Listen to the history behind this hat-making factory from the development of a mechanical method of removing the hair tip from rabbit fur through to the trade name ‘Akubra’ and its connection to Stetson of America. Marvel at how Akubra has remained at the forefront of the industry while taking great pride in maintaining the traditions of quality and style established so long ago in this superb Australian product.

DAY 14 – Friday 17th April

A DAY AT SOUTH WEST ROCKS (Bus Tour)

Time: 9.30am (6 hours duration).
Place: Bus departs from Caltex Service Station, Belgrave Street, Kempsey.
Cost: $25.00 per person. Includes morning tea. Lunch at own expense.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited.
Enquiries phone 6562 7572 or 6562 8837 or book in person at the Macleay River Historical Society Kempsey between normal business hours.

Enjoy a bus tour to South West Rocks and the accompanying walk emphasising the link between ‘The Rocks’ and the Macleay River and the problems associated between modern development and heritage. A special tour of Trial Bay Gaol will also be included.

STORIES BEHIND THE GRAVES (Walking Tours)

Time: 10.00am (about 1.5 hours duration) 6.00pm (about 1.5 hours duration).
Place: Historic Cemetery, intersection of Gordon and Horton Streets, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Adults $5.00.
Bookings: Essential. Phone Port Macquarie Historical Society on 6583 1108 or email pmmuseum@midcoast.com.au

It is suggested that you wear sturdy walking shoes, a hat and sunscreen for the 10.00am tour and that you wear sturdy walking shoes and bring a torch for the 6.00pm tour.

A guided walking tour of Port Macquarie’s Second Burying Ground. Hear the stories of some of Port Macquarie’s famous residents who are buried here, including convicts, soldiers and free settlers.
DAY 14 – Friday 17th April (continued)

GHOSTLY TRAILS – THE RED HOT MURDER OF 1830 (Walking Tour)

Time: 7.30pm (1.5 hours duration).
Place: Timbertown, Oxley Highway, Wauchope.
Cost: Adults $15.00 and Children $10.00. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Bookings: Essential. Show goes on if it’s wet. No refunds.
Phone 6586 1940 between normal business hours.

Come and experience a trail of suspense by eerie lantern light through the historical village of Timbertown. Journey back to the 1800s and the beginnings of European settlement in this region. Huddle close, as our ghostly guides will re-enact historical blood curdling stories of times gone past. A walking lantern-led journey into the darkness of Timbertown village, with our resident ghoul. Let the ghostly guide lead you to the blacksmith’s workshop and the historical church for a spine-tingling tale of murder and suspense. This is a thrilling evening of spooky family entertainment where anything could happen …. and usually does.

DAY 15 – Saturday 18th April

HERITAGE IN THE VINES

Time: 9.30am – 2.00pm.
Place: Douglas Vale Homestead and Vineyard, Oxley Highway, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Enquiries: Phone 6584 3792.

Come and join us for a wonderful day at this beautiful heritage listed homestead and vineyard. Enjoy heritage displays and demonstrations, market stalls, wine tastings and more.

TIMELINES: SNAPSHOTs FROM TELEGRAPH POINT AND WILSON RIVER LIFE

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm.
Place: School of Arts Community Hall, 7 Cooperabung Drive, Telegraph Point.
Cost: Gold coin donation. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Refreshments and sandwiches available for purchase.
Enquiries: Susan Munro. Phone 6585 0256.

Come and view photographs of Telegraph Point and life in the Wilson River Valley area as it is now but will soon become the memories of yesterday.
DAY 15 – Saturday 18th April (continued)

HENRY KENDALL’S 170th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Time: 12.00noon.
Place: Community Hall, cnr Albert and Comboyne Streets, Kendall.
Cost: $15.00 per person. Includes lunch.
Wheelchair accessible.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited.
Enquiries: Phone Sandra Haswell on 6559 4083 by 12 April, 2009.

Come to picturesque Kendall and help the Kendall Heritage Society celebrate the poet Henry Kendall’s 170th birthday. The Camden Haven Choral Society will open proceedings with the poetry of Henry Kendall set to music.

THE TRIAL OF GOLDY LOCKS (Mock Trial)

Time: 2.00pm (about 1 hour duration).
Place: Historic Courthouse, cnr Clarence and Hay Streets, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Adults $4.00 and children 5-12 years of age $1.00.
Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Bookings: Essential as numbers limited.
Phone 6584 1818 between 10.00am – 3.00pm. Tickets must be picked up by 1.45pm.

Try taking a very good looking but tarty film star, a cranky Mrs Bear, a hen-pecked Mr Bear, a not-so-intelligent police officer and you get quite an interesting string of events. This trial runs along the lines of the old story ‘Goldilocks and the Three Bears’ but there are no bears, just bumbling actors, with Mrs Bear really outdoing herself against the hapless Goldy. A good yarn.

DAY 16 – Sunday 19th April

HERITAGE VEHICLES DISPLAY

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm.
Place: Westport Park, cnr Buller and Park Streets, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Free. Wheelchair accessible with assistance.

Come and see this display of more than eighty vehicles demonstrating the advances in transport that have been a vital part of the development of Australia. Many of these vehicles date from the early 1900s to the 1970s and were instrumental in our progress throughout the years.
DAY 16 – Sunday 19th April (continued)

TIMELINES: SNAPSHOTS FROM TELEGRAPH POINT AND WILSON RIVER LIFE

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm.
Place: School of Arts Community Hall, 7 Cooperabung Drive, Telegraph Point.
Cost: Gold coin donation.
Wheelchair accessible with assistance.
Refreshments and sandwiches available for purchase.
Enquiries: Susan Munro. Phone 6585 0256.

Come and view photographs of Telegraph Point and life in the Wilson River Valley area as it is now but will soon become the memories of yesterday.

THE UNIVERSE – YOURS TO DISCOVER

Time: 1.00pm – 5.00pm (30 minutes duration - screen presentation and telescope viewing).
Place: Astronomical Observatory (Rotary Park overlooking Town Beach) Stewart Street, Port Macquarie.
Cost: Gold coin donation.
Enquiries: Phone 6585 5254.

The first astronomical sightings in Port Macquarie were of the Great Comet of 1843, recorded by Annabella Boswell at Innes House. The local name Transit Hill, recalls the 1882 observation site of William MacDonnell to view the transit of Venus. Come and enjoy a wonderful presentation and telescope viewing of space at our Observatory which was opened in 1965 by Government Astronomer Dr Harley Wood.
4 – 19 APRIL

THE ANGUS McNEIL COLLECTION

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm daily.
Place: Macleay River Historical Society, Pacific Highway, South Kempsey.
Enquiries: Phone 6562 7572 during normal business hours.

Angus McNeil was a photographer who captured Kempsey life during the early 1900s. View a wonderful display of his photographs that show how times have changed over the years. A publication on Angus McNeil will be also launched at a special afternoon tea on Saturday 18 April.

OUR PLACE IN SPACE – COMMUNICATING IN SPACE

Time: 9.30am – 3.30pm daily.
Place: Wauchope Historical Society (next to Timbertown), Oxley Highway, Wauchope.
Cost: Gold coin donation. Wheelchair accessible.
Enquiries: Phone 6585 2692 during normal business hours.

Communicating through space using Morse Code, telephones and tele-printers played an important part in our history. As part of this display of early communication you will have the opportunity to use pen and ink on telegram forms, the type used in the 1880s by the Colonial and Inter-Colonial Electric Telegraph Company. Take this opportunity to practice Morse Code and use a 1919 switchboard, telephone and tele-printer.