

Discover our

Macksville

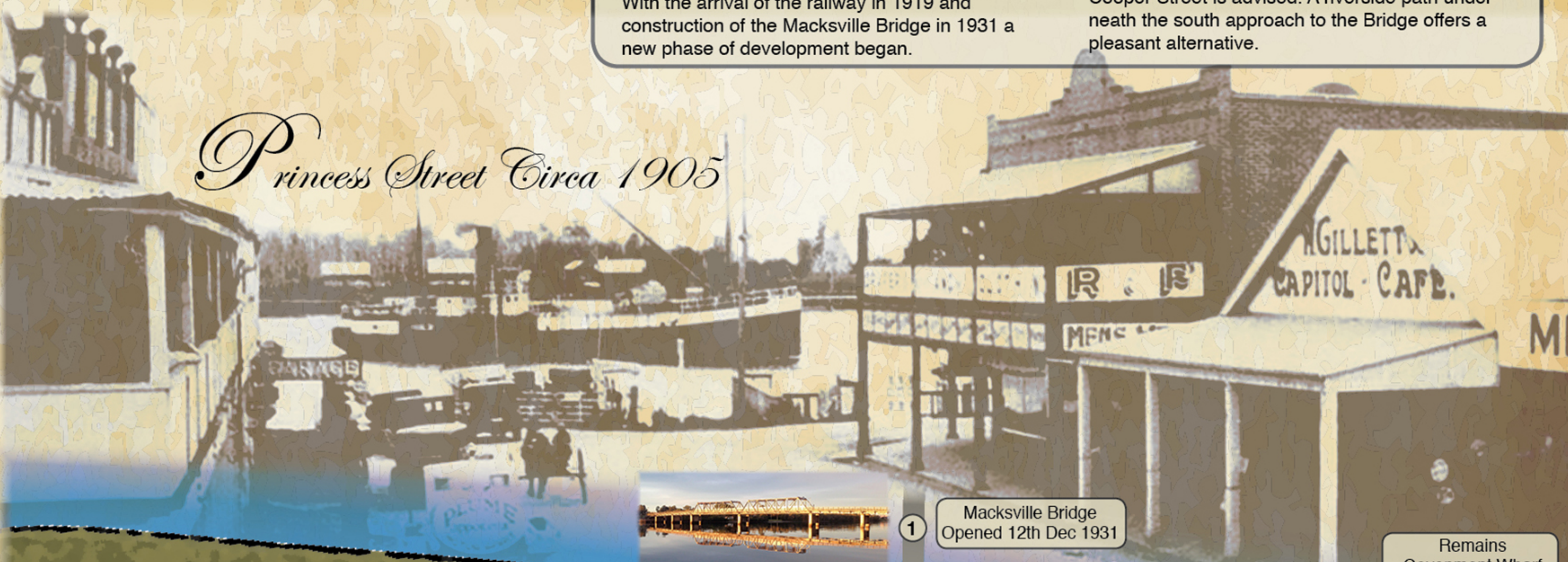
History Walk



Beginning as a private town with three main entrepreneurs establishing businesses and subdividing land, Macksville began as Central Nambucca until 1887 when its name was changed to avoid confusion with Nambucca Heads. The new name honoured these businessmen whose names began with "Mac" – McNally, McKay and McGuiness. Early development focussed on the river – the main artery of the valley and River Street from Princes (now Princess) Street to the punt crossing opposite Newee Creek. With the arrival of the railway in 1919 and construction of the Macksville Bridge in 1931 a new phase of development began.

Take our self-guided walk, stop at one of our historic hotels or quaint riverside shops and cafés and explore the town's heritage. Wheelchair accessible facilities are available throughout town: toilets in Princess St, Winifred St and Cooper Street (at Aquatic Centre); car spaces in Wallace St, Princess St, Wallace Lane. Access to sites is by concrete footpath with good paths offering continuous travel. Gutter crossings are plentiful but vary in ease of use – wheelchairs and motorised scooters exercise caution. Crossing at the traffic lights on Cooper Street is advised. A riverside path underneath the south approach to the Bridge offers a pleasant alternative.

Princess Street Circa 1905



- 1. **Macksville Bridge:** A landmark urban feature.
- 2. **Post Office:** In the Commonwealth Heritage list, one of the first two NSW Post Offices credited to Commonwealth architects.
- 3. **Bridge Café:** Explore the nostalgia behind the façade.
- 4. **Elwood Upholstery:** Take a step back in time, original pressed metal ceiling and other features.
- 5. **Former Bank of NSW:** Constructed of Kempsey bricks, polished maple internal woodwork.
- 6. **Former Rural Bank:** Base of façade is polished trachyte.

- 7. **Nambucca Hotel:** Its magnificent Red Cedar staircase and Hotel fittings cut from 1 log.
- 8. **Frank Partridge VC Memorial:** 8th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF, 24th July 1945, Bonis Peninsula Bougainville, the youngest and last VC awarded in WW2.
- 9. **Star Hotel:** The oldest two-storey, originally named, licensed hotel of timber construction on NSW North Coast. Beautifully restored.
- 10. **Site of old wharf:** Used until 1953 by ocean going vessels to load/unload passengers and goods.

Further Afield:
Mary Boulton Cottage Museum: 38 Gumma Rd. Explore how Nambucca Valley pioneers lived. Sat & Wed 1–4pm. Call 02 6568 1265 to book a tour.

Railway Station: Of state significance as a rare pre-cast concrete drop slab building. One of only a few examples of a once common building type to remain in NSW. Still used.

More about Frank Partridge VC: At Nambucca Shire Council, 44 Princess St & gravesite at Cemetery in Wallace St.

More local history – Macksville Library, 41 Princess St Macksville.

For further information please visit:
nambuccatourism.com.au

