

**...that some of our earliest residents are famous or connected to famous people or events?**

Frederick McKellar married Isabella McGarvie the widow of William McGarvie who along with Frederick Stoke and Ward Stephens founded the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper in 1831.

Frederick was also the grandfather of renowned Australian poet Isobel Marion Dorothea MacKellar one of her poems My Country has become legendary. (B7)

John Pountney's son Alfred Edward Pountney founded the Port Macquarie News, our local newspaper, in 1882. (C6)

Horatio Thomas Norris Tozer's son was Sir Horace Tozer an influential solicitor and politician noted for his efforts to ameliorate the condition of Queensland's aborigines. (E1)

David Davies' brothers were John Davies, a chief constable and founder of the Hobart Mercury newspaper, now the Hobart Mercury, and Edward Davies, also known as 'Teddy the Jewboy' and the only known Jewish bushranger on the Colony's mainland, who terrorised the Hunter River district. (E21)

Archibald Clunes Innes was a former Commandant of the penal settlement of Port Macquarie and although his headstone is here, he is not buried at this cemetery. (F13)



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# Guide to Port Macquarie's Second Burying Ground

PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS

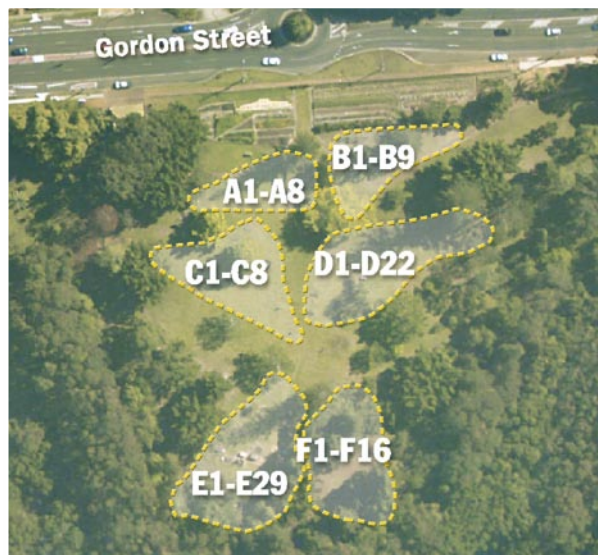
The penal settlement of Port Macquarie was established by Europeans in 1821 on the traditional lands of the Birpai.

The first known European burials in Port Macquarie took place in 1821 at Allman Hill which is located at the eastern end of Clarence Street overlooking the entrance to the Hastings River. Between 1821-1824 a dramatic rise occurred in the Settlement's population. During this period 28 burials took place and concern was raised that the burying ground would be unable to cater for more interments - there was a need for a new site.

The topography of Port Macquarie determined that the most convenient place for another burying ground was on a peninsular a short distance southward of the centre of the settlement at the meeting of two creeks (now Kooloonbung and Wrights Creeks). The location had been noted in the 1818 diary by Lieutenant John Oxley, Surveyor General, as 'bushy'.

The first burial at the new location, this burying ground, took place on 16 November 1824. It was for Elizabeth Murphy, the 4 month old daughter of Corporal Daniel Murphy of the 3rd Regiment of Buffs, and was under the rites of the Church of England.

In the mid 1850s Surveyor James Ralfe surveyed a portion of the burying ground. Permission was then sought to have the area known as the Church of England Burying Ground, 'set aside exclusively for that purpose forever'. Others in the community interpreted this request as one denomination seeking exclusive rights to the detriment of others who had used it as a place of interment for their relatives and friends.



Co-operation between the various religious groups improved and, as a result, the Church of England received 2 acres (0.81 hectares), including the original portion of the burying ground, the Church of Rome 3/4 acre (0.30 hectares) and 1/2 acre (0.20 hectares) was assigned to the Presbyterians. The remaining 3/4 acre (0.30 hectares) was set aside for others.

This burying ground officially closed in 1886, however, further burials were reported after this date. Nearly 1500 soldiers, convicts and settlers are buried here and while 102 graves can be seen only 88 monuments survive.

This burying ground and that of Allman Hill are listed as items of State Significance on the State Heritage Register, which quantifies their importance to all of NSW. The grounds are a point of reference for understanding the life stories and histories of many of our famous, or famously connected citizens as well as the ordinary hard working pioneers who established our area.

As part of the 52 hectare Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park, which has been preserved and nurtured as a community space right in the heart of our rapidly changing city, this burying ground and surrounding park are also a place for reflection as well as research and information.

The publication *'If I could just see your face'*, which is available for sale from Council's Visitor Information Centre, will help you to further appreciate the historical significance of the site and give you a better understanding of the social, religious, political, economic and artistic aspects of community life and death in nineteenth century Port Macquarie. Proceeds from the sale of the publication go towards the ongoing conservation works of the burying ground.

## Visitor Code

This burying ground/cemetery is a very special place for the people of Port Macquarie and New South Wales. It would be appreciated if you would help us care for the cemetery by following a few simple rules during your visit.

## Please

- Observe all signs for your safety and information.
- Respect the rights and needs of other visitors - a cemetery is a place for remembrance and quiet contemplation.
- Place your rubbish in the litter bins provided or take it with you.
- Report to Port Macquarie-Hastings Council any evidence of vandalism that you see during your visit.

Please do not

- Damage or deface any monument or structure.
- Damage or remove any plants.
- Play ball games or run.
- Consume alcohol.