

# PENRITH HERITAGE DRIVE

Penrith is a City with a rich and colourful history which you can see for yourself, learn about and experience as you travel along the Penrith Heritage Drive in the comfort of your own car.

The Penrith Heritage Drive is approximately 50kms long and takes you to some of the oldest buildings, structures and locations across St Marys, Penrith, Castlereagh, Emu Plains and Mulgoa.

There are 27 sites to visit, some such as the Victoria Bridge are well known but others such as Mamre House are little hidden historical gems! All the sites help to shine a light on the people, places and events that have shaped Penrith into the City it is today.

The Penrith Heritage Drive is not only a great way to learn about the history of Penrith, it's a fantastic way for visitors to see the City. As you travel between sites you will be taken through the Penrith CBD, several urban and rural areas and alongside the majestic Nepean River with the spectacular Blue Mountains in the backdrop.

If you like what you see as you drive along and want to stay or return another time, you can find information on Penrith's attractions, activities, accommodation and events at [visitpenrith.com.au](http://visitpenrith.com.au).

## EXPLORERS' MEMORIAL CAIRN

The Explorers' Memorial Cairn was unveiled in 1938. The memorial commemorates the starting point for the expedition undertaken by Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth to cross the Blue Mountains. The cairn is located adjacent to the former site of Gregory Blaxland's farm, 'Leeholme'.

**EXPLORERS' MEMORIAL CAIRN**  
Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills

## MAMRE HOUSE

Mamre House began life as a barn in the 1820s on the estate of colonial pastoralist Rev Samuel Marsden before its conversion to a family home. Marsden pioneered the sheep industry in Australia on this property established in 1804. A commemorative cairn at the front of Mamre is a monument to Marsden's contribution to the wool industry.

**MAMRE HOUSE**  
181 Mamre Road, Orchard Hills  
☎ 02 9670 5321  
**Open:** Tours by arrangement

## VICTORIA PARK & WAR MEMORIAL

Victoria Park began when Sir Maurice O'Connell made provision for a park in the subdivision of his wife's estate in 1842 to establish the village of St Marys. In 1892, local tanner Alfred Alcock bequeathed adjoining land making it a five acre reserve. The War Memorial was erected in 1922 to honour the residents of St Marys who fought and died in World War I.

**VICTORIA PARK & WAR MEMORIAL**  
Great Western Highway & Pages Road, St Marys

## ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church and Cemetery were consecrated in 1840 by Australia's first Anglican bishop, William Grant Broughton. The cemetery contains memorials to the pioneers of the district including Captain Phillip Gidley King, the third Governor of NSW, other members of the King family and members of the Lethbridge family. The town of St Marys, originally known as South Creek, is named after this church which took its name from the parish church of the King family in Dunheved, Cornwall.

**ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH**  
Magdalene Street, St Marys

## BRONTE HOUSE

Bronte House (1889) was constructed for the renowned wagon builder James W Bennett, close to the Bennett Coach and Wagon Works formerly located in Queen Street. This grand house was designed to overlook both Penrith and the mountains and originally stood on grounds of three acres. Apart from being a residential property, Bronte House has also operated as a guesthouse and a café.

**BRONTE HOUSE**  
Corner King Street and Gidley Street, St Marys

## BENNETT WAGON & SOUTH CREEK PARK

The Bennett wagon 'Maxina' (1920) is located in South Creek Park, placed there by St Marys Rotary as a monument to St Marys' industrial past. The wagon building business was started in the 1850s in St Marys by James W Bennett, and carried on in Queen Street by his sons Gregory and James. Bennett wagons were famous throughout Australia for their strength and quality.

**BENNETT WAGON & SOUTH CREEK PARK**  
Corner Great Western Highway & Charles Hackett Drive, St Marys

## ST STEPHEN THE MARTYR CHURCH

St Stephen the Martyr Anglican Church and Cemetery were consecrated by Bishop Broughton in 1839. The church tower provided a welcome landmark for travellers crossing the Blue Mountains. The Church has played a key role in the spiritual and social development of Penrith.

**ST STEPHEN THE MARTYR CHURCH**  
252 High Street, Penrith  
(Cemetery entrance off Fulton Street)  
☎ 02 4732 2124

## OLD METHODIST CHURCH, PENRITH

Built in 1861, the Old Methodist Church is now home to King Henry's Court Restaurant and Gift Shop. The distinctive front porches were added in 1885 by Rev Parsons. The first moving pictures screened in Penrith were shown in this church in August 1898.

**KING HENRY'S COURT RESTAURANT**  
74 Henry Street, Penrith  
☎ 02 4721 1155  
W [kinghenriscourt.com.au](http://kinghenriscourt.com.au)  
**Open:** Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm, Saturday 10am till late and Sunday 8:30am to 3pm.

## OLD POWER STATION

The Old Power Station was built in 1952 and functioned until 1970. This imposing four-storey building of 3000m<sup>2</sup> set on four hectares was reincarnated as the Museum of Fire in 1986. The Museum of Fire now contains one of the world's finest fire fighting collections including equipment and memorabilia of State significant heritage value, with many items dating from the 1700s.

**MUSEUM OF FIRE**  
1 Museum Drive, Cnr Castlereagh Road, Penrith  
☎ 024731 3000 / Fax 02 4731 2983  
@ [mail@museumoffire.com.au](mailto:mail@museumoffire.com.au)  
W [museumoffire.com.au](http://museumoffire.com.au)  
**Open:** 9.30am to 4.30pm seven days a week. Closed Good Friday and a number of days over Christmas. Charges apply.

## THORNTON

Thornton Hall was built in 1870 by Thomas Smith, an alderman on Penrith's first municipal council and the first publican of the Red Cow Hotel. It was home to two of Mr Smith's sons, former Penrith mayor Thomas Richard Smith and Sydney Smith, a member of Sir Henry Parkes' ministry.

**THORNTON HALL**  
11 Mountainview Crescent, Penrith  
W [thorntonhall.homestead.com](http://thorntonhall.homestead.com)

## CASTLEREAGH GENERAL CEMETERY

Marked out in the original planning of Castlereagh, it dates back to 1814. One of the earliest graves belongs to the infant daughter of Henry Cox of Glenmore. The oldest headstone is that of Mary Ann Smith dated 1814. The Rev Henry Fulton and his wife Anne are also commemorated here. Many pioneers of Penrith district are buried in this cemetery.

**CASTLEREAGH GENERAL CEMETERY**  
Church Street, Castlereagh  
(near the East Wilchard Road intersection)

## OLD CASTLEREAGH COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Chambers were completed in 1934. In 1895, 110 citizens of Castlereagh petitioned the Government for the incorporation of the municipality of Castlereagh due largely to controversy over payments for the electrification of the Penrith Township. The municipality functioned from 1895 until it amalgamated with the Municipal Council of Penrith in 1949. In Smith Park opposite the Old Council Chambers is a plaque commemorating the establishment of the nearby Township of Castlereagh as one of the five Macquarie towns, and also a World War I honour roll.

**CASTLEREAGH HALL**  
Castlereagh Road, Castlereagh

## MURU MITTIGAR

Muru Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural and Educational Centre, located in the grounds of Penrith Lakes, showcases local and national Aboriginal heritage. It features a retail gallery, cultural museum and native plant nursery.

**MURU MITTIGAR**  
1951 Castlereagh Road, Cranebrook  
☎ 02 4729 2377 / Fax 02 4729 4193  
@ [info@murumittigar.com.au](mailto:info@murumittigar.com.au)  
W [murumittigar.com.au](http://murumittigar.com.au)  
**Open:** 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Saturday and Sunday by appointment only.

## UPPER CASTLEREAGH METHODIST CHURCH, HALL & CEMETERY

The present Methodist Church (1847) is the third place of worship in this locality. Rum Corps soldier turned farmer, John Lees, had donated the land on which the first Wesleyan Church in Australia was built in 1817. Lees and his wife were reinterred from the Castlereagh General Cemetery which dates from 1836. The schoolroom was erected nearby in 1864 and continues to serve as a hall.

**UPPER CASTLEREAGH METHODIST CHURCH, HALL & CEMETERY**  
1727 Old Castlereagh Road, Upper Castlereagh

## UPPER CASTLEREAGH SCHOOL, SCHOOLMASTER'S COTTAGE & WAR MEMORIAL

The former Upper Castlereagh School and Schoolmaster's Cottage are constructed of sandstock brick with stone dressing and date back to 1878. Located in the school grounds, the War Memorial honours the residents from Upper Castlereagh who served in World War I.

**UPPER CASTLEREAGH SCHOOL, SCHOOLMASTER'S COTTAGE & WAR MEMORIAL**  
Castlereagh Road, Upper Castlereagh

## VICTORIA BRIDGE

Victoria Bridge is a main link across the Nepean River between Penrith and Emu Plains on the Great Western Highway. The original bridge, opened in January 1856, was destroyed by floods in 1857. Its successor was washed away in May 1860. In 1869, with John Whitton as Engineer-in-Chief of the NSW Railways, the Victoria Bridge was completed with the northern lane carrying rail traffic and the southern lane used for road traffic. Because horses became nervous when trains were approaching the bridge, electric bells were installed on the bridge to warn of the approach of trains from Penrith and Emu Plains stations. This iron box girder bridge has been used exclusively as a road bridge since 1907 when the adjacent railway bridge was completed.

**VICTORIA BRIDGE**  
Great Western Highway, Penrith

## PENRITH WEIR

Penrith Weir was constructed in 1909 to provide Penrith with a permanent water supply and with a few alterations, remains intact today. The Pumping Station on the south side of Victoria Bridge drew water from the permanent pond provided by Penrith Weir. The existing weir replaced a sandbag weir that was built and washed away by floods in 1902. In 1940 the weir was dry for the first and only time.

**PENRITH WEIR**  
Bruce Neale Drive, Penrith

## EMU PLAINS RAILWAY STATION

Built in 1883, the Emu Plains Railway Station is a substantial three storey building constructed of brick and sandstone. Emu Plains Station was known as the gateway to the Blue Mountains and played a central role in the expansion of the area. This building replaced a smaller station that was completed in 1868, located west of Old Bathurst Road.

**EMU PLAINS RAILWAY STATION**  
Railway Row, Emu Plains

## THE ARMS OF AUSTRALIA INN

The Arms of Australia Inn was an important stopping place on the Great Western Road for those crossing the Blue Mountains. The building was licensed in 1841 as the Australian Arms Inn by John Mortimer. The Inn now houses a museum run by the Nepean District Historical Society.

**THE ARMS OF AUSTRALIA INN**  
Corner Gardenia Avenue and Great Western Highway, Emu Plains  
☎ 02 4735 4394  
@ [secndhs@bigpond.com](mailto:secndhs@bigpond.com)  
W [nepeanhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://nepeanhistoricalsociety.org.au)  
**Open:** 9am to 2pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and 1pm to 4pm the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. Charges apply.

## MELROSE HALL

Melrose Hall was completed during the depression in 1934 and was funded by a special government 'building relief' grant. Melrose Hall has been an important venue for dances, concerts and many important local functions. The hall was named after C J Melrose, a popular Australian aviator who three months before the opening of the hall set a record of 8 days and 9 hours for a solo flight to England.

**MELROSE HALL**  
Great Western Highway, Emu Plains

## ST PAUL'S CHURCH & EMU PLAINS GENERAL CEMETERY

St Paul's Anglican Church is a charming sandstone building built in 1848. The original building was extended during the 1870s and the chancel added in 1887. A bushfire destroyed the original rectory in 1929. The adjacent Emu Plains General Cemetery, containing some fine stone monuments to local families, is the site on which the convict barracks for the Emu Plains convict farm was located in the 1820s.

**ST PAUL'S CHURCH & EMU PLAINS GENERAL CEMETERY**  
Short Street, Emu Plains

## EMU PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOL

The original Emu Plains Public School was officially opened in August 1877 by NSW Premier Sir Henry Parkes. Attached to this attractive stone school is the former schoolmaster's residence. The old school now serves as a community centre and is home to the Nepean Family History Society.

**EMU PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
Great Western Highway, Emu Plains  
(entry from Lawson Street)

## PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY & THE LEWERS BEQUEST

Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest was formerly the home of sculptor Gerald Lewers and his wife Margo, an abstract painter. The existing circa 1901 farmhouse, its property and art collection were bequeathed to Penrith City in 1978.

**PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY & THE LEWERS BEQUEST**  
86 River Road, Emu Plains

☎ 02 4735 1100  
@ [penrithregionalgallery@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:penrithregionalgallery@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au)  
W [penrithregionalgallery.org](http://penrithregionalgallery.org)  
**Open:** 9am to 5pm seven days a week. Closed Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Free entry.

## GLENMORE

Henry Cox and a team of convicts built the first stages of Glenmore, now Glenmore Country Club, and its stables in circa 1825. In its heyday Glenmore was a hive of agricultural, pastoral and social activities. The property then operated as a private school for young women before becoming a golf course and guesthouse in 1927.

**GLENMORE HERITAGE VALLEY**  
690 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa

☎ 02 4733 3288  
@ [ghv@bigpond.com.au](mailto:ghv@bigpond.com.au)  
W [glenmoregolf.com.au](http://glenmoregolf.com.au)  
**Open:** Sunrise to 7pm daylight savings time, sunrise to sunset non-daylight savings time.

## ST THOMAS CHURCH, MULGOA

St Thomas Anglican Church was consecrated in 1838 by Bishop Broughton. The picturesque sandstone church, unlike others in the area, was constructed by free labourers rather than convicts. Edward Cox donated the five acres of elevated land on which the church was built. The attractive sandstone used in the construction of the church was cut from Edward Cox's nearby property, 'Fernhill', and Henry Cox's property, 'Glenmore'. The strong association of the Cox family with this church is evidenced in the gravestones in the churchyard.

**ST THOMAS CHURCH**  
St Thomas Road, Mulgoa

## MULGOA PUBLIC SCHOOL

A public school at Mulgoa was established in 1875 with the present school building constructed in 1883. The original school grounds covered four acres and were acquired from Mrs A B Cox, while the Hon G H Cox was instrumental in encouraging the Department of Public Instruction to build the school. The people of Mulgoa saw its establishment as a major advancement for the area.

**MULGOA PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
1189-1193 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa

## BLAXLAND CROSSING

Blaxland Crossing is named after the site John Blaxland used to cross the Nepean River to reach his property on the western bank where his cattle grazed on the fertile river flats. In 1813, Governor Macquarie granted land to John, the brother of explorer Gregory, which encompassed much of present day Luddenham and Wallacia. John named his property 'Luddenham' and built a homestead where Wallacia is today.

**BLAXLAND CROSSING RESERVE**  
Silverdale Road, Wallacia

☎ 02 4773 8077  
**Open:** 8am to 5pm seven days a week. Charges apply.

Where properties are open to the public we have included information on other properties are operating businesses or schools and are not able to accommodate visitors. Please respect the needs of these premises and do not enter them.  
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For more information on these heritage sites visit:  
Penrith City Library  
601 High Street, Penrith  
☎ 1300 736 836  
@ [tourism@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tourism@penrithcity.nsw.gov.au)  
W [visitpenrith.com.au](http://visitpenrith.com.au)

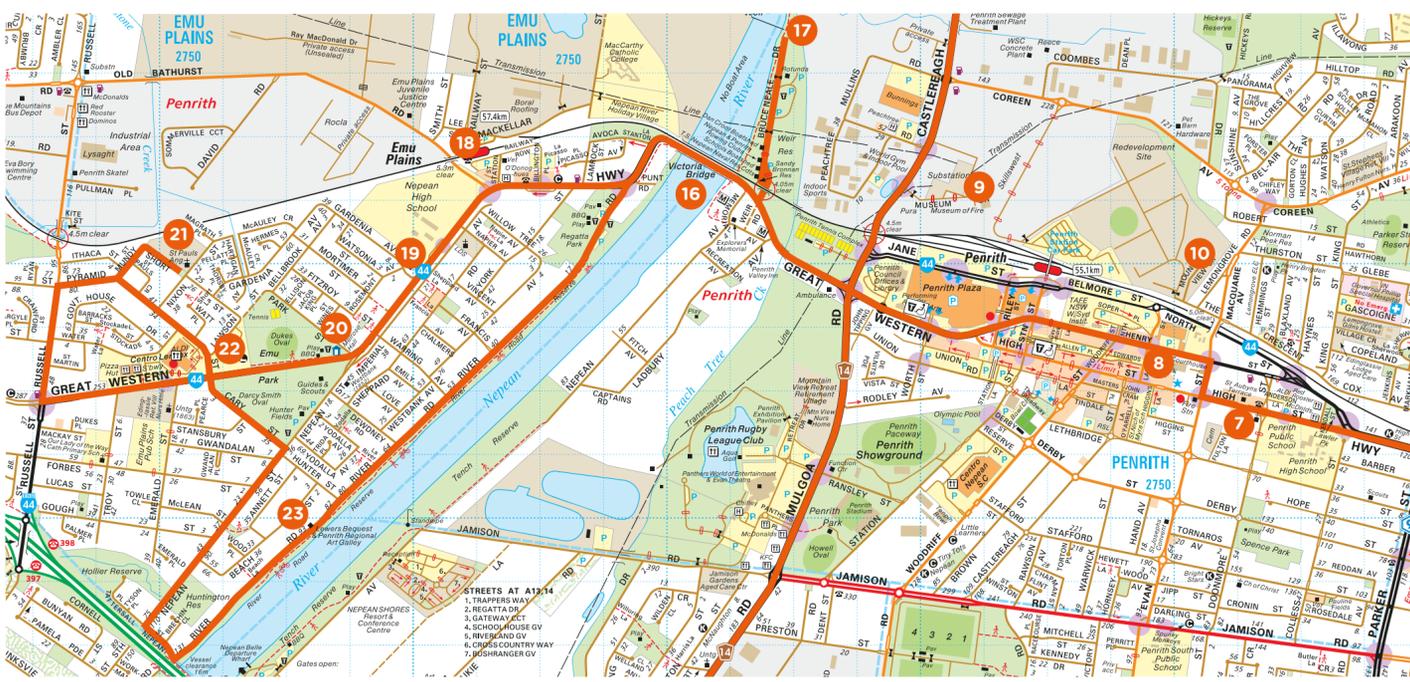
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