

## Places Of Interest On A Nabiac Heritage Walk (beginning at the southern end of Clarkson Street).

The name of the village main street has some history to it. First, there is no record of any family named “**Clarkson**” ever living in the district. The use of the name appears to have been a corruption - probably by the postal inspector during his 1869/70 survey - of the family name of “**Clarkin**” who were one of the very early settlers in the district having taken up some land in 1862 immediately south of the Wallamba River a kilometre south of the village. Second, in the early 1950s the decision was made that part of the main route north from Sydney to Brisbane - The Pacific Highway - would be re-routed through Bulahdelah/Coolongolook/Nabiac/Taree rather than Gloucester/Krambach/Tinonee/Taree. As a result of this decision Clarkson Street became a small section of The Pacific Highway, right through the middle of the village.

1. 82 Clarkson Street - this house is said to have originally stood at 72 Clarkson Street and had served as the residence for the licensee of *The Nabiac Hotel*, just across the road. It was until recently, a private residence.
2. 78-80 Clarkson Street - the mechanical repair business of *Modern Motors* which was begun in 1948 by Les **Weller** and his then partner Archie **Thompson**. It is currently managed by Les's grandson David.
3. 74 Clarkson Street - former site of *Stafford Smith's Bakery*. It contained a small shop, the bake house (complete with wood fired oven) and the family lived in the building also. Presently *The Nabiac Family Medical Practice* of Dr Malcolm **Fairleigh** occupies the building.
4. 72 Clarkson Street - this building was constructed during WW 1 for Fred **Gorton**, who was a leather worker. The building was also his residence. A small section on the eastern end had a chequered career as it served as a fruit shop, billiard hall, cordial factory, hair dressing salon and a dental surgery. After Fred's death it became the *Kit 'N' Kaboodle Restaurant* but at the moment that operation is “between owners”.
5. The Village Green - there had always been a small patch of grass on this corner and it was variously used as a parking lot or beer garden for the original *Nabiac Hotel*, the front of which was about where the asphalt starts in front of the present row of shops.
6. Shop 1 Pacific Highway - present site of the *Nabiac Café* but this was near to the site of the residence and shop serving the *Premier Bakery* (see 63 Clarkson Street).
7. 1/3 Nabiac Street - present site of *Gooch Real Estate* but this was near the former site of *Herbert Milligan's* butchery.
8. 4 Nabiac Street - former residence of Jack **Bithery** who was a builder, plumber and bee-keeper. It is now *Shaz-N-Barb Partners In Style Unisex Hair & Beauty Salon*.

9. 6 Nabiac Street - the mechanical repair business of *Nabiac Motors* was built by Herman **Everingham** in the 1920s. It was purchased by Ray **Paff** in the early 1930s and is now owned by Sandy and Paul **Shaw**.

10. 10 Nabiac Street - this was the site of one of Nabiac's first shops run by Michael **Marsh** but it was destroyed by fire in the very late 1800s. This building was erected several years later and has been occupied by several businesses through the years. It currently houses *Buckingham's Mid North Coast Real Estate*.

11. 12 Nabiac Street - following the destruction of his store next door **Marsh** build this two story building in 1902 in which he operated a general store before selling to J T **Magennis**. Several other owners continued this business before Leon and Colleen **Robb** purchased it and began *Robb & Co Rural Supplies*. Upstairs was originally the residence but it has recently been converted to office space.

12. 85 Clarkson Street - this building was constructed in the early 1930s by Harry **Wallis** and housed the *Nabiac Bakery*. It is still a bakery but the building now also houses *Griffo's Gourmet Meats*. Although no longer used the building still retains the two wood fired ovens at the rear.

13. 81 Clarkson Street - this private residence was built by Les **Weller** in 1937. The first building on the block however, was a large shed at the rear from which Les generated 110 volt DC electricity supply and also made ice for the village.

14. The Nabiac War Memorial – although the erection of a war memorial was discussed for many years following WW 1, it wasn't focused on until the late 1920s when construction began. It was dedicated on ANZAC Day, 1932.

15. 77 Clarkson Street - this building was formerly a fruit shop before the **Greaves** family opened a butchery in the premises. It now houses a branch of *The Forster Veterinary Hospital*.

16. 75A Clarkson Street - this was the private residence of the **Bowers** family and was built around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It was occupied in January, 1952 by Doctor Joan **Redshaw** who established a medical practice in it. Following her retirement the house once more became a private residence.

17. 70 Clarkson Street - this building was constructed in 1911 as the village *Police Station* and housed not only an office and a courthouse but was also the police residence. It has a secure cell in a separate building behind. It's still a police residence (the officer now works out of Forster or Taree) and the court house is used as an enlarged office by the Highway Patrol. It's a sign of the times but a walker might also like to know the block of land behind the Police Station (facing Nabiac Street and now planted with trees) once belonged to the Nabiac constabulary. Early maps of the village note this block was the area in which the policeman's horse was stabled.

18. 68 Clarkson Street (presently a vacant block) - this was the site of *The Nabiac School of Arts* which was built in the 1890s. It consisted of three sections: the main hall which had a raised stage at the far end with wings; a small room at the front left housed the village library; and a similar room on the right was a kitchen or luncheon room where food was prepared for all manner of social events such as wedding receptions, balls, dances, concerts, temporary classrooms, meetings and village Christmas parties. The building deteriorated over time and was demolished in 1970.

19. 66 Clarkson Street - although a modern brick house now occupies this site, not that many years ago it was the site of the last blacksmith's shop in the village operated by Harry **Mann**.

20. 63 Clarkson Street - this building was originally the residence/shop beside *The Premier Bakery* on Nabiac Street - the shop's front door can still be seen. When the Pacific Highway was rerouted around the village coincident with the opening of the new bridge over the Wallamba River in 1958, this building was moved to its current location rather than be demolished. It is now a private residence.

21. 62 Clarkson Street - this house was built by Les **Weller** in the early 1930s (for his father Henry **Weller**) on the corner of Wallanbah and Dargaville Roads just west of the village. Following Henry's death the house was sold and the new owner moved it to its present location. It is still a private residence.

22. 61 Clarkson Street - originally built by the *E S & A Bank* to house its head teller. As a result of a review of holdings and bank practices the house was sold and it is now a private residence.

23. 56 Clarkson Street - this was the site of the residence for the headmaster of *The Nabiac Public School*. This building replaced the original wooden building several years ago and it now serves as a staff retreat.

24. 52 Clarkson Street - *The Nabiac Public School - The Best Little School .... Anywhere*. The school originally consisted of one room and that was dedicated on 29 April, 1884. Very little (if any) of that first room is still used but the original sandstone foundation blocks still support the front part of the present building.

25. 47 Clarkson Street (diagonally opposite the school) - this was the first Police Station in Nabiac and it was built and occupied in 1899. The old Burnside Hall (see later entry) was dragged from its original location and positioned beside this building to serve as a courthouse. When the new purpose built Police Station was construction in 1911 (see Item 17), this house became a private residence.

26. 39 Clarkson Street - following the building of the new Police Station in 1911, the old Burnside Hall/courthouse was again moved to this block where it became a private residence. It was demolished in the 1970s to make way for this modern brick residence.

27. 33 Clarkson Street - this is the entrance driveway to *The National Motorcycle Museum* but many years ago, and to the rear of the present site of the museum, stood *The Burnside Hall*. It wasn't a large affair but after the construction of the *Nabiac School of Arts* it was dragged across the paddock (by a traction engine) to become a courthouse.

28. 42 Clarkson Street - this is currently a private residence but in 1905 the *London Bank of Australia* opened an office in Nabiac in this building. It continued to serve as a bank until the *E S & A Bank* opened their office in 1910.

29. 34 Clarkson Street - *St Paul's Anglican Church*. This church was dedicated on 7 November, 1904 by Bishop **Stanton** of Newcastle and regular services are still held in it. In the 1980s the *Memorial Hall* in Wang Wauk was dismantled, transported to Nabiac, attached to the rear of the building and now serves as a small church hall.

30. 21 Clarkson Street - directly opposite St Paul's stands what used to be, *The Manse* which housed the resident Anglican minister. The building was sold in the 1970s and is now a private residence.

We need to backtrack now to Hoskins Street which runs to the left off Clarkson Street down beside the school.

31. 21 Hoskins Street - this old cream coloured house was built by Arthur **Everingham** near the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Arthur was one of the brothers who owned and operated the large saw mill located near the Wallamba River.

We'll move to the end of Hoskins Street and turn left into Nabiac Street. Hoskins Street was a very important route around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century as it was on this road all the timber from the near slopes and Mt Talawahl, were moved to a large saw mill located near the river.

32. On the left just before the Nabiac and Donaldson Street intersection stood *The Red Store* (so named because it was painted red) which Frederick **Phillips** erected in the 1890s. It was officially known as *The Wallamba River Produce and General Store* and the area (because of the river) was the centre of business activity at the time. The creation of the north coast railway and the improvement of road transport killed river shipments and the store was demolished in the 1940s.

33. Corner of Nabiac and Donaldson Streets - on the riverside bank was *The Bullock Wharf* which was the head of commercial navigation on the Wallamba River. All exports/imports came to this point for/from the whole of the Upper Wallamba River district. Just behind the wharf (until it was destroyed by a fire in 1930) stood the **Everingham** timber mill. On the other side of this intersection (approximately where the houses on 2 & 4 Donaldson Street now stand) stood a later and smaller timber mill again owned by a member of the **Everingham** family. It was built in the mid 1940s and operated until the late 1950s. On the

up river side of the wharf (on the low flat area) several vessels (droghers, launches or fishing vessels) were constructed and launched.

34. 12 Donaldson Street – this house was built by Ebenezer **Everingham** in 1911 and he called it *St Elmos*, after the village/area of Scotland from where the **Everingham** Family had emigrated. It is still a private residence and still retains the character of the original building as well as several of its pressed tin ceilings.

We will now return to the centre of the village via Nabiac Street.

35. On the right hand side of Nabiac Street (and on the corner opposite the Showground cattle yards) stands *St Isidore's Catholic Church*. This is possibly the oldest building still standing in Nabiac having been built in 1889. Services are still conducted in it.

36. *The Nabiac Showground* – the area was first notified for recreation in 1886 but it wasn't until 1911 that *The Wallamba District Agricultural and Horticultural Association* was formed and the first show was held on this site in 1912. The annual Show is still held on this site.

37. 46 Nabiac Street - *The John Knox Perry Memorial Parsonage* - this building was constructed in 1938 for the resident Methodist minister. It was named in memory of The Reverend John Knox **Perry** who had been an early minister in the parish and who was killed on the Western Front in WW 1. It is now a private residence.

38. 44 Nabiac Street - the *Nabiac Methodist Church* was built in 1905. Regular church services are still conducted in it. The *Failford Methodist Church* was moved and attached to the rear of this building in 1971.

39. 9 Showground Lane – this is the house built by Dr George **Parramore**, the first doctor to live in Nabiac. It is now a private residence.

40. *The Nabiac Cricket Field* – established around 1907.

41. 37 Nabiac Street - the *Nabiac Memorial Neighbourhood Centre*. It was built by Sister Sarah Jane **Nixon** (later Mrs Sarah **Bidner**) in 1915 (and called the *ARALEUN Hospital*) when her first building (see next item) proved far too small.

42. 35 Nabiac Street - this was Nabiac's first hospital run by Nurse Sarah Jane **Nixon**. To no doubt encourage his daughter to complete her nursing training at the South Sydney Hospital, her father said he'd provide her with a hospital if she was successful. She was and true to his word he purchased this small building in 1909. He also had a brass plaque engraved and fixed to the front wall declaring it was: NURSE NIXON - PRIVATE HOSPITAL. So successful was she with this operation, she purchased the block of land next door (37 Nabiac Street) and built a much bigger hospital. This building is now a private residence.

43. *Nabiac Tennis Courts* – established in 1922.

44. 19 Nabiac Street – former site of the *ES & A Bank* built in 1910. The building was moved to the rear of the block in the 1970s to make way for the *Nabiac General Store, Newsagency and Post Office*. The old building still retains the look and character of the original bank and residence building and also boasts several pressed tin ceilings. It is now a private residence.

45. 17 Nabiac Street - this is currently the *Nabiac Medical Centre* but it was formally a private residence and much later operated as a craft centre with a plant nursery at the rear of the block.

46. 15 Nabiac Street - for many years the *Nabiac Post Office* operated out of this building. It is now a private residence.

47. 13 Nabiac Street - although the site is now occupied by a private residence, around 1895 E E **Gorton** set up a leather shop making shoes, saddles, bridles and all manner of harnesses. It was a large operation and the business continued to operate well into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

48. 7 Nabiac Street - this building was built by David **Hancock** in 1914-15 and he traded there in mercery and drapery. Following his retirement the business was sold in the 1980s to Mr Ferdinand **Weerheim** who established *The Amish Country Store* (a coffee shop/restaurant with Amish undertones). After experiencing several floods through the building, he sold out and the present occupant is another restaurant venture, *The Whatever Café and Gallery*.

49. *The Nabiac Creek* - it has never officially been named but at one stage there were two wooden bridges crossing this creek within fifty metres of each other. Why the two were built so close together can only be guessed at now but with the increased level and weight of traffic generated by The Pacific Highway that then crossed it, the Clarkson Street bridge deteriorated and the decision was made to replace it with a concrete structure. At the same time it can be assumed the Nabiac Street bridge was examined, found wanting and demolished. Rather than rebuild the bridge, Nabiac Street was re-routed to cross below the War Memorial Park and link up with Clarkson Street. The Rotary Club of Nabiac constructed the pedestrian footbridge and donated it to the village.

50. 3 Nabiac Street - this site originally held two large wooden buildings: the *Nabiac Post Office* and *The Bowers Store* both owned by the **Bowers** family. They were destroyed by fire in the early 1950s and three buildings now occupy the site which include: *The Wallamba Café, Reflections Hair and Beauty, The Nabiac Butchery* and a private residence.

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<http://nabiac.com/publications/NabiacHeritageWalk.pdf>