

Walk Around Kandos

THE TOWN OF KANDOS BEGAN AS A PRIVATE VILLAGE TO SERVICE THE CEMENT COMPANY (WHICH CLOSED IN 2011). IT IS ONE OF ONLY A FEW TWENTIETH CENTURY TOWNS IN AUSTRALIA. AS YOU EXPLORE THE TOWN NOTE THE FEATURES LISTED BELOW.



1. KANDOS HOTEL

The Kandos Hotel is the oldest commercial building in Kandos. Tooth and Co paid a high price for the land in the belief that a caveat on all land titles would prevent the building of another hotel in the town.

2. RAILWAY STATION

This hand-me-down station (transported from Locksley on the Central Tablelands) was at one time the busiest station on the Mudgee line. Now an annex of the Kandos Museum it is being developed as a heritage rail centre and a base for rail tours of Kandos- Rylstone and the Mudgee district.

3. RAILWAY HOTEL

Because it was built on private land, this second hotel was unaffected by the cement company's caveat. Note the exposed brickwork, verandahs, ornate parapet, awnings, pillars and French doors. The Kandos Hotel had similar features until the 1950s.

4. COURT HOUSE

Until this charming brick and tile building with its enclosed verandah and Greek columns was completed, the first court room in Kandos was located in McGrath's premises (see 6. The Kandos Stores). The court closed in 1970 and it is now a police residence. The police station beside it was built in 1961.

5. THE ROTUNDA

This handsome temple-like structure with its domed roof, Greek columns, octagonal shape, wrought-iron balustrade and steps, awaits a Sunday afternoon brass band.

6. THE KANDOS STORES

Built as a business and residence by J P McGrath, this is a spacious, two storey, double-fronted building with cantilevered verandah. Over the years it has housed a bank, courthouse, café, draper, milliner, TAB, dress shop and professional rooms.

7. CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Evolving over decades this simple, charming, gothic- style church has walls of rough-hewn stone and a roof of corrugated iron. Note the bell and belfry between the church and rectory.

8. ANGUS MEMORIAL HALL

Named after the Chairman of the cement company, this hall was the centrepiece of Kandos social life in the first two decades. Benefits, concerts, balls, church services, meetings and carnivals

were all held here. For many years it also housed the cinema, public library and hairdresser. Kandos' first community hall is now home to a multi-purpose art facility, a showcase for the vibrant art scene bubbling up in Kandos as well as a popular café.

9. KANDOS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Set back from the main street this imposing building can hold 700 to 800 people. It is constructed of cement-rendered ash brick. Accommodated beneath it, in what was once the kitchen and supper room, is the Kandos Library.

10. POST OFFICE

This red brick building, with its classical revival features, added a proud, solemn air to Angus Avenue when it was built. Note the Greek columns, unadorned roofline, lintel (depicting the name Post Office Kandos), and formal steps.

11. THE CLOCK

Sixteen immigrants, who were naturalised at the first citizenship ceremony to be held in Kandos, presented this obelisk and clock to the town. The name Kandos and ornate wrought iron were added in 2008.

12. KANDOS MUSEUM

This former Methodist Church was the first church erected in Kandos. Designed by Floyd S Richards, the commissioning Superintendent of the Kandos Cement works, and drawing on the newly emerged industrial architecture of Detroit's architect Albert Kahn and of Floyd's home state of Michigan, the church introduced the new ideas, techniques and materials that were used in building the cement works to a wider audience, heralding new construction techniques that would go on to change the Sydney skyline and beyond. The church has the first cast in-situ flat concrete roof for a church in Australia, demonstrating a construction technique that is still in use today.

13. THE SCOUT HALL

A gift of the cement company, the scout hall has provided scouting skills for generations of children who have dashed through the turnstile, down the cement path and up the steps to the entrance, framed by the cement awning and pillars.

14. CATHOLIC CHURCH

This church was built to serve the dual purpose of church and school. Every week the altar was curtained off with green velvet curtains. The moveable blackboards and desks (which converted to high-backed seats for Sunday Mass) were arranged to form classes.

15. THE GOOD SAMARITAN CONVENT

Now a private home, this former convent is an architectural gem in the Spanish Mission Style, with its handsome arches, Greek columns, wide verandahs and private chapel. The garden has a grotto and over 100 roses.

16. UNITING CHURCH

Dedicated and opened as a Presbyterian Church, it became a Uniting Church in 1970. It is a plain somewhat austere concrete building with arched lancet windows, a pitched roof and buttresses.

17. KANDOS SCHOOL

Despite the Progress Association wanting a concrete building, the government chose this two-storey brick design with sash windows and a tiled roof. Now connected to other buildings you can identify it by the foundation stone. From Jaques Street, you can see the first weatherboard school, built in 1924.

18. HENBURY GOLF COURSE

Designed by golf architects Rupert Black and Arthur East, Henbury offers visitors one of the finest golfing opportunities to be enjoyed in regional NSW. It truly is a hidden treasure.

19. TRUSWELL'S PALAIS DE DANCE

Now a vehicle workshop, this hall once had navy and gold drapes, padded seats and modern appointments. It was the venue of choice for many district balls.

20. KANDOS MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL

Opened in 1962 the Kandos pool was a community initiated project funded by a combination of public donations of money, materials and labour by the working folk of Kandos, the Coal Board, NSW Public Works, Kandos Cement and Rylstone Council.