

# KIDMAN

THE KAPUNDA CONNECTION

## Follow the Kidman Trail

Odd job boy, butcher, drover, horse dealer, "Cattle King". Sir Sidney Kidman who amassed a fortune and became the largest landholder in Australia's history was born at Payneham, near Adelaide in 1857. He died, aged 78, in 1935 after a life which made him an Australian legend.

Kidman's first visit to Kapunda was when, as a lad of 13, he stayed for one night at the Prince of Wales Hotel on his way north. He returned in the 1880s and stayed until 1921. During that time he met and married a local school-teacher, lived in two of Kapunda's most impressive homes and raised a family of three daughters and a son, all while pursuing business interests which made him a very wealthy man.

Kidman's Kapunda connection was a very significant one for the town; his generosity, exemplified by the gift of his house Eringa to the Education Department for use as a High School, was well known and the Kidman Horse Sales are an important part of the town's heritage.

The Kidman Trail takes you to places either owned by or associated with Sir Sidney Kidman in the years of Kidman's Kapunda Connection.

As you will see from the map, Locations 1 to 10 are all within easy walking distance of the Main Street.

Kapunda & Light Tourism recommends the book *"Kidman: The Forgotten King"* by author Jill Bowen which is on sale in the Visitor Information Centre corner of Main & Hill Streets Kapunda.

**1. SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HALL** (1870) - Known in Kidman's day as The Institute. At fund raising meetings in this Hall in World War I Kidman made huge donations and encouraged others to do so. As well as large sums of money for various causes, his generosity paid for three ambulances for use in the war (a fourth was donated by H.H.Dutton) and money was sent to England for the purchase of two war planes.

**2. KAPUNDA MUSEUM** - One of the finest country museums in Australia, housed in what was formerly a Baptist Church (1867-1948). Contains some Kidman memorabilia.

**3. SIR JOHN FRANKLIN HOTEL** (1849) - Licensee James Whittaker's most notable guests, apart from Kidman, were explorers McKinlay and Sturt. Sales yards erected behind the hotel in the 1870s were later used by Kidman for horse sales.

**4. KIDMAN MURAL AND BUST** - Situated next to the Post Office in Main Street. The bust was made in 1992 by sculptor Ben van Zetten who also created the impressive "Map Kernow" at the entrance to the town. The mural, a joint effort by artist Peter McLoughlin, Kapunda residents and the students of Kapunda High School, was completed in 1999.

**5. SIR SIDNEY KIDMAN HOTEL** - Formerly known as the NORTH KAPUNDA HOTEL (1849) Stock sales were held in the yards at the back of the hotel from 1899 to 1918. Rooms at the rear were later used as offices for the Kidman Horse Sales. Kidman's horse sales were the largest held in Australia and attracted buyers from all over the world. Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, stayed there in 1867 making the hotel one of the few in the State that can claim royal patronage.

**6. KIDMAN BUILDINGS** (1909) - In this two storey building the Bank of New South Wales enjoyed the patronage of Kidman, who made provision for it to move from temporary premises in Hill Street and occupy part of the building in which he had the offices from which he ran his stock sales and other businesses.

**7. KIDMAN BUILDINGS** - Built in the late 1860s, this single storey building is clearly named on the central pediment above the verandah. It was used as offices for the famous Kidman horse sales.

**8. PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL** (1858) - This was Kidman's first overnight stopping place when, aged 13, he left home and set off north to make his fortune. The story is told that he arrived in Kapunda on his one eyed horse Cyclops with five shillings to his name. He left with one shilling after he had paid for the overnight stay for himself and his horse.

**9. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** (1858) - Sidney and Isabel's place of worship. A wall plaque commemorates Ann Will, Isabel's mother. The building was a church until 1974. It is now known as the Chapel Theatre and is used by the Kapunda Musical Society.

**10. POLICE STATION (1852) & COURTHOUSE** (1866) The Police were renting the building which was the original Police Station in the Mine area. In 1851 funding for this complex was approved. It is said that Kidman made many a trip to the Courthouse to pay the fines of his workers who had perhaps been behaving badly the night before. Kidman needed his workers to be at work not in jail!

**11. KAPUNDA GENERAL CEMETERY** - Isabel and Sidney lost two infant children. Edith, their fourth daughter, died in 1895 aged almost three years and Norman Sidney Palethorpe, their first son, died in 1898 aged one year. Their grandmother, Isabel's mother Ann Will, was buried near the children when she died aged 79 in 1916.



KAPUNDA HIGH SCHOOL

**12. GUNDRY'S HILL LOOKOUT** - With its beautiful panoramic views of Kapunda, the hill is the site of an old copper mine (1840s) managed by Captain Gundry who lived in a cottage nearby. The excavations became stone quarries which were later roofed with hessian and used for housing Kidman's horses. During the hot months, the hessian was dampened to keep the horses cool.

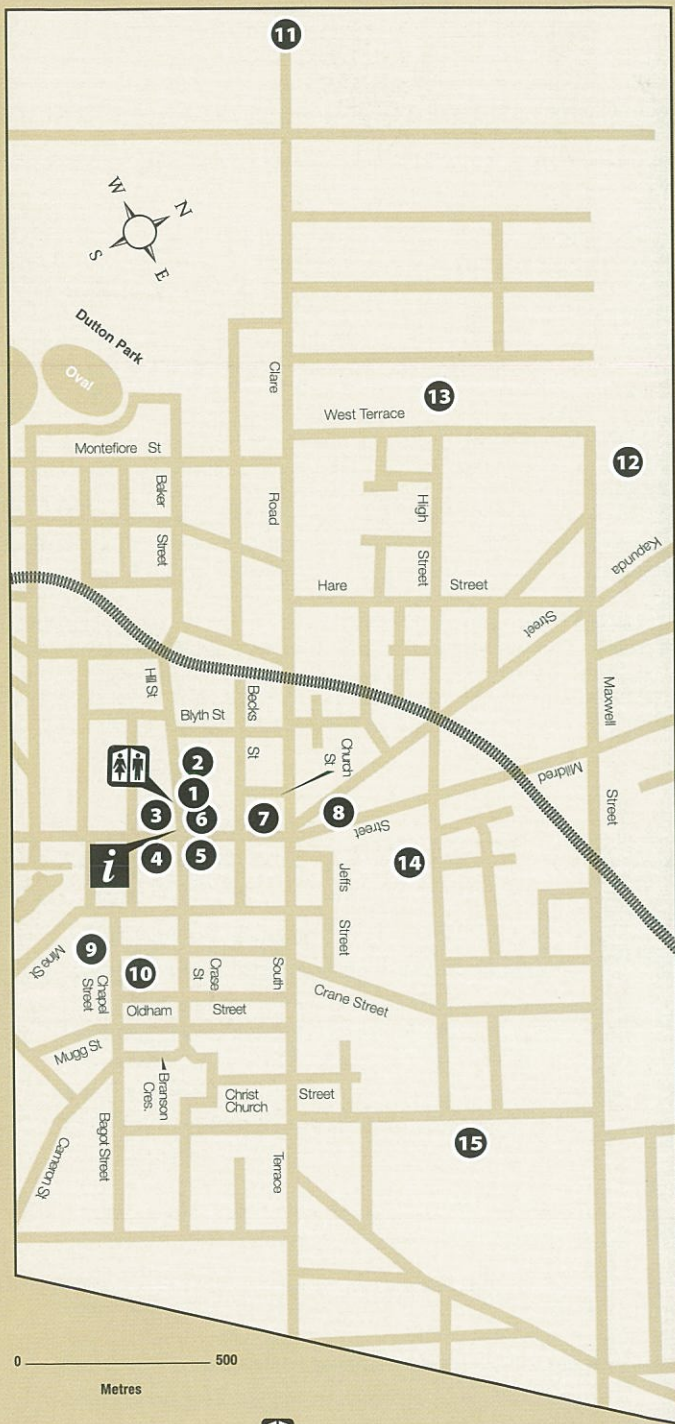
**13. ERINGA** - Built in 1879 by Alexander Greenshields, a successful Kapunda draper and originally called Lanark House, this became the Kidman's second home in Kapunda. In 1902 Kidman bought the house and renamed it "Eringa", a name given to several of his properties in Australia. Soon after Kidman was knighted in 1921 he and Isabel moved to Adelaide and "Eringa" was donated to the Education Department for use as a High School.


**14. 55 HIGH STREET** (1870) - The former home of Isabel Wright and her mother Ann Will. In this house Sidney and Isabel were married in June 1885. Formerly the home of Mrs Wagenfeller, the widow of a Kidman employee, Carl Gustav Wagenfeller, the house is known locally as Wagenfeller's House. The magnificent iron lace work was made by Hawke and Company at the Kapunda Iron Foundry which once stood on Whittaker Street.


**15. BALD HILL** - Sidney and Isabel's first house. The house was so named because when they moved in there were no trees on the property. Isabel, who loved gardens, would surely have rectified that during the many months of each year that Sidney was away on business. They lived there from 1897 to 1902 and it was there that their six children were born.

As you follow the Kidman Trail you will pass many houses and cottages with which there may have been a Kidman connection. For example, there are two cottages on High Street opposite Wagenfeller's House, which some claim were built by Kidman for his workers. There are large houses in many streets which were built in Kidman's day which he and Isabel must have visited socially, when transport, at least until the early 1920s, was by horse drawn carriage.

The Primary School, built in 1878, where Isabel was a schoolteacher; the stock yards off Hancock Road; the Copper Mine; the Railway Station; many of the Main Street buildings and many of the old homes would all have been visited by Sidney Kidman. Those places have changed so little in a century that it is easy to let your imagination recreate the days when the great man and his very much respected wife Isabel lived here.



Public Toilets 

Kapunda Visitor Information Centre  
Call for enquiries on (08) 8566 2902 



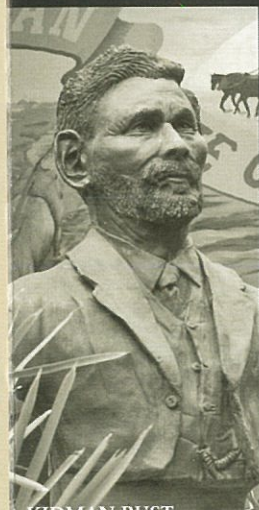
KAPUNDA HIGH SCHOOL



KAPUNDA INSTITUTE



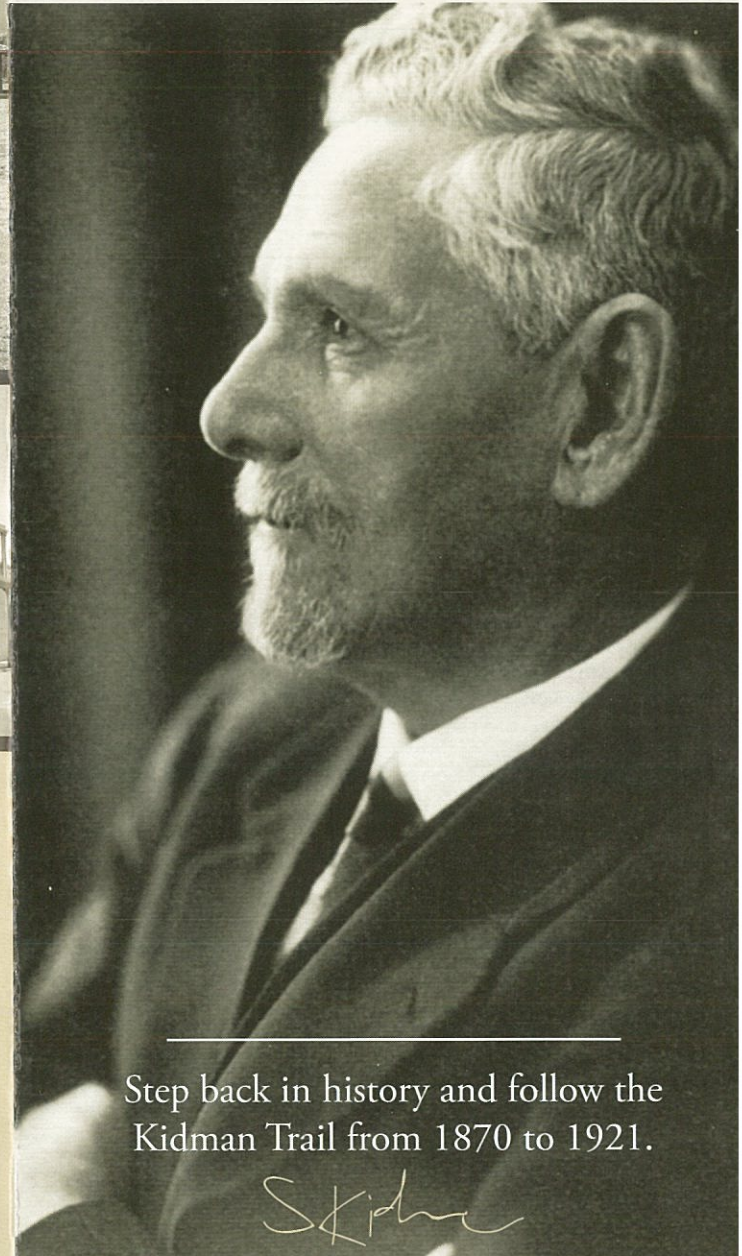
SIR SIDNEY KIDMAN HOTEL



KIDMAN BUST

# KIDMAN

THE KAPUNDA CONNECTION



### For more information:

Kapunda Visitor Information Centre  
Thomson Building, Corner of Main St.  
and Hill St. Kapunda SA 5373  
Open: Mon to Fri 9am - 5pm  
Weekends, Public Holidays 10am - 4pm  
Tel/Fax: (08) 8566 2902  
Email: [info@kapundatourism.com.au](mailto:info@kapundatourism.com.au)  
Website: [www.kapundatourism.com.au](http://www.kapundatourism.com.au)

Step back in history and follow the  
Kidman Trail from 1870 to 1921.