

April 2023

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# Newsletter



Opening hours: Every Sunday 10am – 2pm  
Or by appointment.

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Committee formed June 2001; Incorporated November 2001;  
Dedication and official opening 9 October 2004

# President's Patter

Hello everyone

I hope you all had a restful time at Easter. We are in desperate need of more volunteers to assist us at the Museum. If you or you know someone who may be interested to help out at the Museum please contact our secretary, Anne, on 07 5559 1457 (you may need to leave a message and Anne will get back to you). All that is required is a current blue card and we can organise that for you. You can choose the hours that suit you. I would like to thank our volunteers for keeping the Museum grounds and displays spic'n'span.

*Joan*

We are on Facebook and Instagram -  
GC Hinterland Heritage Museum - please like us  
and spread the word.

## **Origin of places in the Hinterland.**

### **NERANG**

Origin – Derived from town and river name, the latter from Bundjalung language, Ngaraangbal variant, words which indicate either small river, or shovel nosed shark, latter from neerung or neerang. Refer J.G. Steel. Aboriginal pathways. Brisbane, 1983, p. 58.

### **MUDGEERABA**

Origin – Name derived from Bundjalung language, Yugumbir dialect words mudherri = stick and ba = place, indicating muddy place. Refer F.J. Watson, Vocabularies of four representative tribes of South Eastern Wueensland. Brisbane, 1944, p. 105. Alternative meaning place where people told lie. Refer J.G. Steele. Aboriginal pathways. Brisbane, 1983, p. 62

### **NUMINBAH VALLEY**

Origin – Numinbah is derived from an Aboriginal word, Bundjalung language, Ngaraangbal dialect, indicating hold tight country, from the belief that the narrow valley held the mountains together. The name is also associated with a species of palm tree. Refer J. G. Steele. Aboriginal pathways. Brisbane, 1983, p. 60. Note that the local school changed name from Numinbah to Numinbah Valley in July 1939.

### **SPRINGBROOK**

Origin – Locality name was originally Springwood, given by settlers group, changed in 1906 at the request of the Postmaster-General, to avoid confusion with Springwood NSW. Refer Brisbane Courier, 27 May 1925.

### **TALLEBUDGERA**

Origin – Derived from Tallebudgera Creek, which name is a distortion of the Bundjalung language, Ngaraangbal dialect, words tallé = tree or log, budhera = rotten or soft, from the food gathering practice of leaving logs underwater in accessible places to be infested with teredo molluscs. Refer F.J. Watson. Vocabularies of Four Representative Tribes of South Eastern Queensland. Brisbane. 1944, p. 108.

Chaloom Woojerie – Fat or good fish [*Aboriginal Place Names by J.A. Gresty*]

### **CURRUMBIN**

Origin – Currumbin Waters was originally an estate name. Currumbin is reportedly a word derived from the Bundjalung language, Ngaraangbal dialect, indicating either high or high trees, or alternatively is associated with “kurrohmin” indicating kangaroo. Refer J.G. Steel. Aboriginal pathways. Brisbane, 1983, p. 62.

## **COOMERA**

Origin – Derived from Coomera River, which derived from Bundjalung language, Ngaraangbal dialect word indicating a species of wattle tree, the bark of which was used to stupefy fish.

## **PIMPAMA**

Origin – Pimpama is reportedly derived from Bundjalung language, Yugumbir dialect, pim pim ba or bim bim ba, indicating place of Soldier (Mickey) birds. Refer F.J. Watson. *Vocabularies of four representative tribes of South Eastern Queensland*. Brisbane, 1944, p. 109. The name Pimpama was originally given to a mustering station woned by Hon. W.D. White in L.C. of Beaudesert. In 1869 this station sold off and one of the employees, John Watkins, took charge of the Post Office near Hotham Creek. This Post Office was established as part of the first mail coach route from Brisbane. The township which then grew here and of which Mr Watkins may be called the founder, took on the name of Pimpama.

## **MERRIMAC**

Origin – Name originally iused by Thomas Blacket Stephens (1819 – 1877) newspaper proprietor and politician, as a name for horse breeding property in 1876. Presumably Merrimac reflects an American Indian, language unknow, word indicating running water.

## **BEECHMONT**

*From 'Taming a Plateau – A history of the Beechmont district' compiled and edited by Robert Longhurst p. 21.*

The Kombumerri and Wangeriburra peoles knew Beechmont well, not as a permanent tribal area, but as the place of 'Bina Burra', the Nerang dialect word for the Beech tree. According to J.A. Gresty in 1947, 'Muggerabull' was the first shelf on the Beechmont Range. This was their word for 'pricly yellowwood'; the second shelf was 'Neemjerra', the azure kingfisher. Numinbah significantly meant 'hold him tight' signifying that the valley held the mountains together.

## **CLAGIRABA**

*Aboriginal Place Names by J.A. Gresty*

Kalaggareebah – Young unmarried men were isolated here as part of initiation ceremony

## Museum musings



■ 5<sup>th</sup> March we had a surprise visit from one of our foundation committee members, Les. He enjoyed a 'cuppa' with us and had a look around the museum. Thanks, John, for bringing your dad for a visit.



■ Brian and Lloyd building a buffer at the end of the railway line. A lot of sweat was lost on this job.







■ Can you guess what Brian and Lloyd are doing here?







■ On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April we had Dark Stories perform "The Female of the Species", an immersive theatre experience. Can you solve the crime or pay with your life? Rehearsals took place the day before. If you missed out this time keep watch on our Facebook page for more events later in the year.





■ Below: Does anyone know what this mystery item is? It has everyone at the Museum bamboozled. If you know please send us an email [info.gchhmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:info.gchhmuseum@gmail.com) .



## **ADVANCETOWN HOTEL**

<https://www.goldcoaststories.com.au/advancetown-hotel/>

In 1884 the first Beechmont Hotel was built by W.H. Turner to service the timber getters and bullock drivers working the Numinbah Valley. It was located on the corner of Numinbah Road and a bullocky track from Beechmont known as the Black Shoot. Over twenty years later in 1905, Ernest Bellis took over operations of the hotel.

In 1918 Bellis changed the hotel's name to Advancetown Hotel and as a result, provided the name for the surrounding settlement. He sold the hotel in March 1924.

Under the new ownership of Mr A.E. Giles in July 1933, a fire occurred while Mrs Free, the licensee was away. There was no firefighting equipment available for the timber building and the 11-room building was destroyed. Though no lives

were lost, nothing was saved. Another hotel was built on the site and opened in February 1934.

It was this hotel that was eventually covered by the waters of the Hinze Dame in 1977. A new Advancetown Hotel was established on higher ground closer to Nerang on the Nerang-Murwillumbah Road.

## **Nerang-Beechmont Hotel.**

— AND —

### **ADVANCE CASH STORE.**

**SITUATED 500'** above sea level, at the foot of Beechmont, 500 yards **at rear of Hotel** the sea and Southport are plainly visible.

**SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS.**

The best of everything at moderate charges. Horses for hire. A buggy will meet train at Nerang on due notice being given.

**THOS. KEARNEY,**  
Proprietor.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/162062537?searchTerm=beechmont%20hotel>

### **ADVANCETOWN HOTEL FIRE**

The **Advancetown Hotel**, erected some 30 years ago, was destroyed by fire during the early hours of last Tuesday morning. It was a wooden structure of 11 rooms, situated on the main Numinbah road, about 10 miles from Nerang, and was owned by Mr. A. E. Giles, of Wynnum. Mrs. Free, the licensee, was away on a visit to Brisbane, and the premises were in charge of Mr. G. A. Robinson and his niece, Mrs. Lowry. Owing to the lack of fire fighting appliances it was not long before the building was destroyed. Nothing was saved. The furniture and effects were covered to the extent of £250.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133769756?searchTerm=Advancetown%20hotel>



### ADVANCETOWN HOTEL.

A new hotel to replace that recently destroyed by fire has been erected at Advancetown. Nicely furnished and picturesquely situated on the interstate highway, what will be the main route to Murwillumbah, the Advancetown Hotel should become a very popular resort for tourists, more especially as the natural bridge with its waterfall and gorges of ferns and native flora is so handy. There are a number of men now engaged constructing bridges and making the road through to the grid. It is stated that the new road will shorten the distance to Murwillumbah by nearly 20 miles. Advancetown is a pleasant run of 13 miles from Southport, and should become a very popular trip with Southport visitors, as the scenery en route is delightful. Mrs. H. Free is the licensee of the hotel which is owned by Mrs. A. E. Giles, of Wynnum South, who, by her enterprise in erecting such an attractive hotel, evidences she has faith in the future of the district.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/133769394>

### More Than News! – OBSERVATIONS BY ERNEST BELLIS

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/rendition/nla.news-article136463873.3.html?followup=4cbe23f76d251dc57a3b215c06985dd0&print=true>

As the oldest resident of this district, I wish to tell you that this Advancetown portion is going through a bad time. The council's work suspended and all the timber industry, which was a big item up here, as dead as a door nail. It looks like the pieces of road on the Beechmont sections will be suspended for some time, and, as no new tenders are called, it would not be possible to (well into the new year) do anything.

Now for the good news – We have a new hotel and storekeeper here, and we welcome new blood in this district. I wish a new proprietary success. With the good prices going for bananas, which are now a source of revenue up here, and the good prices of cream and pigs, it may in a way counter-balance the loss of the timber trade.

There is an abnormal desire up here for sports and pleasure, and go-as-you-please methods, right or wrong; and in some instances these go-as-you-please methods bring on strife.

Our school here is going ahead by leaps and bounds. We now have over 20 pupils, and a little time ago certain interests tried to close it, we then having only nine children. I, as the donor of the land for a school, hope that in the future the Education Department will see that the school is not used for other than school purposes, as that was one of the conditions of the gift.

I see you are going to take your water from the upper Nerang area Well, if your council can afford it, I assure you that you have a water supply that will be hard to better in Queensland.

I do hope we will be able to subscribe the 10 millions wanted by the Federal Government at once, and then again the 70 od millions wanted early next year. We must all try to help.

I see "Eve's Unhappy Daughters", by Katherine Carr; it is very much to the point, and should be published wholesale. I would like to know that lady.

I do hope that Queensland, my adopted land, will be in for better times. We must give up too much sport, and all work to compete with the outside world.

Competition is keen.

## **PIONEER PASSES**

*PIONEER PASSES (1944, July 26). South Coast Bulletin (Southport, Qld. : 1929 - 1954), p. 1. Retrieved April 17, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188319329>*

Mr Ernest Bellis, a resident of the Nerang district for close on 70 years and who has been bedridden for the past six years or so, passed away in the South Brisbane, [unable to read this part] aged 96 years and 8 months. The late Mr Bellis came out from England as a young man and for many years he did the mail run from Beenleigh to the border on horseback. He followed the occupation of a teamster for many years hauling timber from Stradbroke, and of later years the Numinbah district. He established the first sawmill at Gilston where he also had a store and subsequently he acquired land at Advancetown where he opened a hotel which he carried on for some time. Mr Bellis was one of the pioneers of the South Coast timber industry.

## ADVANCETOWN DISTRICT PROGRESSING

*ADVANCETOWN (1940, April 5). South Coast Bulletin (Southport, Qld. : 1929 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved April 17, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188882046>*

Advancetown is going ahead by leaps and bounds. Mr E. Faust has purchased Mr E. Belliss' property, and has converted it into a field of oats. Mr Faust intends turning the place into a dairy farm.

Mr L. Hinde, who has recently been married, has erected a very attractive villa on part of the property which building is a credit to the builder, Mr Tom Bondey.

The Advancetown Hotel has changed hands, and the new proprietor intends to add to it a dance hall. Already he has erected a small store for the convenience of the public.

Mr Hugh Guinea's wife has presented him with twins. Both are lovely children and all are doing well.

The younger people of the district are having a tennis court built on Mrs Zimmerman's property.

The old pioneers, Mr and Mrs Ernest Bellis, will shortly be leaving Advancetown with which centre they have been associated for very many years and with them will go the best wishes of old and new residents.



## ***Management Committee 2023***

*Joan Rudd [President], Anne Panitz [Secretary]. Sue Mills [Treasurer, Registrar, Newsletter] Jack Rudd, Brian Cox, George O'Brien, Lenore Crouch, Mariette Buckingham, Neil Sands, Pam Sands, Peter Jones, Carol Jones, Warren Davis, Tom Cowper, Lloyd Mills.*

*Meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month on site.*

Our aim is to collect and preserve historical and heritage material illustrating the growth and development of the Hinterland Region of the Gold Coast from the original pioneering days until today. We plan to arrange and describe these materials and make them accessible to the general public on a regular basis as well as providing educational programs where possible to increase public awareness and appreciation of the Gold Coast Hinterland region's history and development. Members of the Management Committee have connections with pioneering families in the district.

"Friends of the Museum" is for anyone who shares our same interest in preserving the history of our region and is interested in assisting with the set-up and operation of the museum.

Further details on the 'Friends' and application form may be obtained from the secretary.

## **Diary Dates - subject to change without notice**

### **February 2023**

- 6 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 13 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 20 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 20- Museum meeting 2pm
- 27 – Museum open 10am-2pm

### **March 2023**

- 5 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 12 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 14 – Marymount College
- 16 – Marymount College
- 19 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 19 – Museum meeting 2pm
- 21 – Marymount College
- 26 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 27 – Robina S S

### **April 2023**

- 2 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 9 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 14 – Dark Stories
- 15 – Dark Stories
- 16 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 16 – Museum meeting
- 16 – Dark Stories
- 21 – Dark Stories
- 22 – Dark Stories
- 23 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 23 – Dark Stories

### **July 2023**

- 11 – Benowa SS
- 12 – Benowa SS
- 13 – Benowa SS

**The Museum Committee would like to thank the Council of the City of Gold Coast for their continued support of the Museum through Whole of City Funding and rate reduction.**