

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

We held our AGM on August 14th and all current executives were re-elected unopposed. Congratulations and many thanks to all our Museum volunteers for your hard work over the past 12 months. Without you we would not be able to run the Museum. Another dress up day for Seniors Week was held in August and there will be another open day for Senior's on 13th October and we are also participating in Gold Coast Open House on 15th and 16th October.

I would like to thank Sue Mills for putting this wonderful newsletter together. Thanks to her we get a lot of very interesting history.

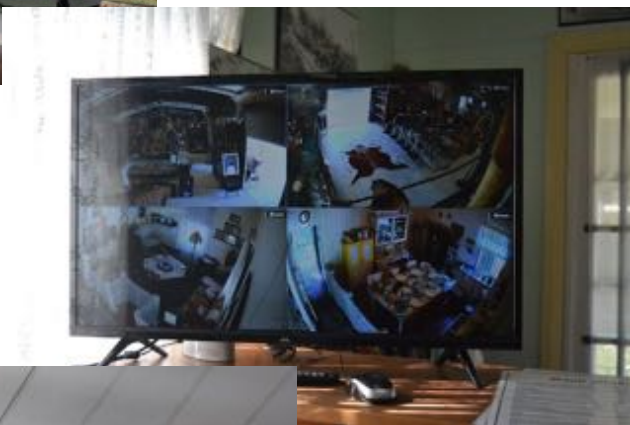
Joan

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

Due to the rising cost of postage we would like to be able to email the newsletter to as many of our friends as possible. I know there are some of you who do not have email etc and that is fine. You will still get your newsletter as per usual. **If you receive our newsletter through the post and have an email address could you please send an email to info.gchmuseum@gmail.com and I will add you to the email list to receive the newsletter. Many thanks.**

Museum happenings

An Australian Federal Government grant from the Culture, Heritage and Arts Regional Tourism program (CHART) allowed us to install security cameras throughout the Museum buildings.





The Pony Car Club of Australia visited the Museum recently.

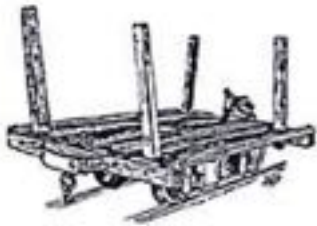
The Museum Committee members celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a 'high tea'.



The U3A Southern Gold Coast enjoyed a Devonshire Tea and a look through the Museum in June.



June also saw a TAFE student photo shoot at the Museum. The tutor has been bringing her photography students here for several years. This time they had models as well.



*Wanted to build
replica sugar cane
wagon as used on
the Gold Coast*

*Used 4inch by 2inch (100 X 50) by 6 foot (2m)(min),
hard wood as used in wooden house fences,
we need about 8 lengths.*

*If you know someone who is pulling down an old
garden fence, please let them or us know.*

The Haunting



The Haunting is coming to our museum 2nd, 3rd, and 4th September. To purchase tickets and find out more about the event

<https://darkstories.com.au/the-haunting-gold-coast/>

Senior's Day display and morning teas with the Gold Coast Antique Auto Club and Gold Coast Spinners and Weavers was held on 18th August.





ORMEAU

ORMEAU. (1909, October 2). The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), p. 12. Retrieved August 26, 2022, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article19608141>

AMONG THE ARROWROOT AND SUGARCANE FARMERS by B.J.S.

Though a casual glance from the railway train, as it speeds on its journey along the South Coast Railway line, near Ormeau, discloses very little good land, yet the Ormeau district is one of the richest endowed small areas in the Logan and Albert. to see the beauties and natural resources

of the district watered by the Logan, Albert, Coomera, Nerang, Tallebudgera and Currumbin Rivers one is compelled to disperse with the service of the 'iron horse', which has been made to plod its way through the least inviting portions of the country and to return to the ancient manner of progression. The name Ormeau, pronounced by the public in many different ways, would appear to have been derived from the French, but the word is a good old Irish one given years ago to the place by one of the number of Irishmen who settled there. Good men they were, and thanks be it, they have not all passed away. Who has not heard of the genial warm hearted old Robert McCready? Sure, the name is enough to stir one's blood. Then wasn't there the late Mr Doherty, and many another! These old settlers what heroes they were, and what a work they have done for this great young State. English, Irish, Scotch and German. They have fought the wilderness, have withstood droughts and floods, have at last laid down the plough handles and joined the other, but mightier army. Leaving the station and taking a track through a paddock the arrowroot farm of Mr Robert Doherty is plainly visible. Year by year on these rich alluvial flats is sown the plant from which the arrowroot is made. An up-to-date mill has been erected not far from the running stream, and here the scaly tubers are carted from the fields and crushed. First, they are placed in a washer, whereas much of the dirt as possible is washed off, and then, taken by means of a carrier to the grater where the tubers are grated. One part of the tuber is useless, and the water carries the other useful part away in solution. Then this solution continues through different stages until eventually when the sediment is allowed to settle in the last big trough it is as white as snow, and the arrowroot is cut out in big blocks, taken away and put out on trays in the sun to dry. In the processing of arrowroot only perfectly clean water is used, and no chemicals of any class are allowed so that in using the pure Queensland arrowroot the housewife can always depend on providing pure food for her family. They arrowroot growers have suffered in the past through greatly fluctuating markets, and low markets at that, but the last two years have put an altered aspect on the case, as the prices have been maintained at a satisfactory figure. There is every probability that this year the crop will realise £40 per ton. On November 10, 1905, Mr J. Latimer, of Podinga, a prominent grower in corresponding with the writer remarked that arrowroot did not pay at £14 per ton, but as the growers had the machinery they were obliged to carry on in the hopes of better prices and better seasons. Though arrowroot plays a large part in the progress of the Ormeau district, yet sugar is more important, as there is a much larger area under the cultivation of cane. The produce is sent by train to Nerang central mill,

where through the comparative youth and richness of the soil, good prices are realised. Unfortunately, this year very little cane will be sent away as the dry cool summer prevented the natural growth but as no frosts have been experienced, the crops can be well allowed to stand over, and should the present weather conditions continue there should be a record crop for next crushing. The writer, some few years ago, had occasion to climb to the top of Beeton's Hill and he then gazed down on thick, rich scrub. He was surprised beyond measure when making the same ascent last week, and, looking over the same country, his eyes rested on plot after plot of sugarcane glistening in the sunlight. Time works changes and where he previously collected staghorn and orchids from the scrub, he in this year of grace, had the pleasure of lunching with the owner, Mr W. Beausang, who has the whole area under cane, The scene from Beeton's Hill is well worth the climb, for, in one direction, the distant Moreton Bay and Stradbroke Island can be observed, while in the other, the cane farms, the homes of the settlers, and the winding, smooth road, can be seen. Driving up either the creek road or the other, the scenery well repays a visit. Still another industry is making headway in the district and this time 'the cow and the separator' are responsible. The Ormeau district has a bright future and the residents may well be proud of their holdings.



Arrowroot drying tables, Ormeau, circa 1915. [Image courtesy City of Gold Coast Local Studies collection.]

Springbrook Meeting Places [*Springbrook: Where the Clouds Touch the Earth – A History of the Plateau by Pamela Hall. 1990. Pp52, 53.*]

The first gathering point for the mountain dwellers was a corrugated iron shed on Rudder's property at the Canyon. It was here that dances, and meetings were held. After a few years, the building was moved and erected opposite the present Canyon Tearooms. Although slightly smaller after its reconstruction, Rudder's Hall as it was euphemistically called,

played host to many functions until the present Community Hall was built in 1947.

As early as 1916 a meeting was held to discuss raising funds for the Hall we now use. The location was a foregone conclusion as the land had been surveyed as recreation reserve in 1906. Fund raising dances were a highlight of the social calendar and neighbours were never asked whether they were going, it was simply accepted that everyone would be there, and a 'see you Saturday nights' was sufficient greeting. It seems that the dances became very popular at the school in the 1920s when George Morton was headmaster. He played the accordion and like everyone else who attended, didn't seem to notice the lack of space. At supper time the billy was boiled under the stars.

The construction of the present hall was very much a community affair. Fund raising dances, games and raffles were held at Shelley's Guesthouse in their big dining room. As the majority of the guests were women, a big roll up of the mountain bachelors was well assured. Several families were involved in the project, either through the donation of timber from their land or in the form of labour. Much timber came from George Rankin's Horseshoe Falls paddock, including Yellow Stringybark for the stumps and Tallowwood for the weatherboards. Crow's Ash was renowned for its high oil content and suitability for dance floors and this came from Richard Harding's Echo Valley property, on Lyrebird Ridge Road. Con Kurz transported the logs to Houghton's mill in Mudgeeraba for milling. 'Boss' Houghton's blue weatherboard house can still be seen near the Bonogin Road turn-off. ('He was a portly old fellow and an alcoholic. We kids were kept in pocket money by selling the empties to Cuddihy's store'. Thelma Dennis whose father was the No. 1 Benchman at the Mudgeeraba mill in the war years.)

Alf Wintle did much of the timber getting and was the President of the building committee, which included Ken Wintle and Greg Hardy. Many others gave of their time at the numerous working bees that were ongoing until the building took shape. A Southport builder was employed to oversee the 'rookie' locals. A dance was held to celebrate the opening of the new Hall and everyone donned their finest for the gala occasion. Ivy Kurz who has lived on the mountain for most of her life, remembers the evening well – she still has the softly draped, floor length gown that she wore and proudly points out that it still fits.

The Hall became the venue for most community groups for meetings and functions and no doubt the extra space after the basic conditions of Rudder's shed and the little school room, was very welcome.

Among the countless good times had in the hall, a few stand out either because of their significance, their absurdity or their novelty.

One such event was the debut of Springbrook's All Male Ballet at a concert held in the 1940s. Betty Lowe who had purchase Chandos Guesthouse, decided to hold ballet classes for anyone interested, with a view to putting on a concert once the students were proficient. Ken Wintle asked if there was any age or sex barrier, and the mischievous idea of an alternate men's ballet was born. In tutus made from mosquito netting, balloon bras and tennis shoe slippers, the half- tanked ballerinas were an unforgettable sight. Another event remembered by many was the Back to Childhood Ball. The costumes were a source of amusement all night, however some of the ladies 'spat the dummy' and busied themselves in the kitchen preparing supper to avoid being seen.



*'All Boys Ballet',
Springbrook
Community
Hall, 1940s. L-R:
Dick Hamilton, John
Lowe,
Bob Carrick, John
Wintle, Vic Jensen,
Ken
Wintle [Image
courtesy CofGC
Local Studies
Collection]*

CURRUMBIN VALLEY – BANANA GROWING AND DAIRYING. By our special representative.

FOR THE MAN ON THE LAND. (1928, July 21). The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), p. 11. Retrieved July 15, 2022, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article21308854>

In the following article the excellent work of the Local Producers Association in reviving the banana and dairying industries, and in improving transport and postal facilities in the fertile and picturesque valley

of Currumbin is outlined. The valley itself, apart from its productiveness is described as a 'sportsman's paradise'.

The Currumbin Valley nestles in the shadow of the majestic Macpherson Range separating Queensland from the mother State and is encompassed on the north by a series of lofty tree-clad hills, culminating in another rugged mountain range. Yet for those who love the wide-open spaces there is much to charm in this little-known spot, and the story of its pioneers affords a striking example of the tenacity of the man on the land, and his progressiveness. The creek which flows through the valley of Currumbin finds its source some 12 miles from the sea and at the head of this stream is situated the progressive settlement of Upper Currumbin, 11 miles from the railway. To get there one leaves the train at Currumbin 64 miles south of Brisbane and is at once confronted with transport difficulties, a phase all too common in the country and one of the main drawbacks to the man on the land. The only regular conveyance offering is the local van which serves the dual purpose of conveying cream to the railway and returning with supplies and mails for the settlers.

For the somewhat uncomfortable trek up hill and down dell, involved in the journey through the valley the traveller will be amply compensated by the many scenic beauties encountered – tropical palms, bordering quiet pools, 'shade and shine' from a variety of viewpoints, encompassed on each side by mountain forests overlooking miles of seacoast. Here also is found a veritable sportsman's paradise of which practically nothing is known outside. The angler will find a satisfying outlet for his energies and the local Progress Association is at present negotiating with the Fisheries Department with a view to stocking the numerous pools and holes with different varieties of spawn. The man with a gun would seldom return from a day's sport without a bag of scrub turkeys, pigeons, or wallabies while the surrounding country abounds with marsupials of various sorts. The botanist might spend days, and always find something new to interest him. Here the weary, nerve-racked city businessman may find in the serene beauty of the bush the real elixir of life, unknown to those content with the beaten track. The story of the hardy pioneers who opened the Upper Currumbin is, in itself, a stimulus. In the early days of the settlement the dairying industry became well established, but less than a decade ago it was outrivalled by the banana which attracted a large number of new settlers to the district. Fired with ambition to make money quickly, though as it proved, arduously, men of every class and occupation entered into banana growing industry and a temporary fillip was given to the settlement by the advent of the exlicensed victuallers, bankers, actors, city merchants

and a host of others, and even the dairy farmer applied his energies to the culture of the banana.

With bright prospects ahead determined efforts were made to remove the many disadvantages which existed, the principal one being that of transport. Roads, at this time, were a tragedy, the usual complaint in many country centres. In this case the complaints were 100 per cent justifiable; the infrequent mail service kept the community out of general touch with the world at large. The launching of the Upper Currumbin Progress Association was accomplished with many ardent supporters despite the usual quota of pessimists and 'rail sitters'. The Association secured a live wire in the person of Mr Sam Smith, who worked untiringly in forcing the issue of road requirements and an adequate mail service. His practical knowledge of roads, he used also in an effective manner. The closing of a sawmill removed one of the greatest assets of the settlement – the telephone – but an enthusiastic working bee re-established it at the home of Mr Ben McClymont, another of the district's enthusiastic workers. Only those whose lot is cast in a similar sphere can fully appreciate the boon of the telephone, for herein lies an essential, too often classed as a luxury by the Postal Department, second only to that of transport. With good roads and a telephone, how vastly different would be the history of the countryside. Gradual depreciation in the ranks of the settlers threatened disaster in the form of the closure of the State School, but strenuous efforts and the consideration of the then Minister for Education (Mr J Huxham) saved the situation and today the school is a live force under the direction of Mr W P O'Shea. Every settler in the district is imbued with the determination to preserve the child's right to a primary education the absence of which is a colossal handicap through life.

The district has had its vicissitudes. The pendulum of fortune has swung to and fro. The ravages of bumpy-top have forced some settlers to vacate their holdings. Some have been ruined. Others, with a remnant of their former wealth, have made a fresh start. The cow remained to provide the wherewithal for those who still carried on and maintained the district's identity and despite the change of fortune the civic energy born of the small body rightly call the Progress Association is still a live factor under the new name of the Local Producer's Association, which is affiliated with the QPA and Council of Agriculture. The undaunted spirit of progress is reflected in the recent big improvement in the first section of road completed by the Main Roads Commissioner and the bridging of the Salt Water Crossing on Currumbin Creek which is about to begin. A telephone service has been instituted throughout the valley mainly through the good offices of the Federal member, Captain Jos. Francis, at all times. The

settlers have had the enthusiastic support of Captain Francis and of their State member, Mr J G Appel, MLA. Their representative in the Nerang Shire Council (Councillor Ken McKenzie) is widely known in the district as a big man with a big heart and one who is sparing no effort to provide the district with every modern facility. Under the direction of Professor E J Goddard, strenuous and enthusiastic efforts are being made to revive the banana industry and the success attained with the experimental plot of 500 plants under the supervision of Dr Goddard encourages the belief that the district is once again coming into its own.



Hand drawn sales and estate map of land for banana farms, Currumbin Valley, n.d. Possibly around the 1920s. H.D. Hawkings; authorised surveyor, civil engineer and draughtsman. [Image courtesy City of Gold Coast Local Studies Library collection].

Management Committee 2021

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, Luisa Williams.

Meetings held 3rd 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

July 2022

- 3 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 10– Museum open 10am-2pm
- 12 – Benowa SS
- 14 – Benowa SS
- 17– Museum open 10am-2pm
- 17 – Meeting 2pm
- 19 – Benowa SS
- 24 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 26 – Clover Hill SS
- 28 – Clover Hill SS
- 31 – Museum open 10am-2pm

August 2022

- 7 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 14 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 14 – AGM 2pm
- 18 – Senior's Day 10am
- 19 – Nerang Time4Friends
- 21 – Museum open 10am-2pm

August 2022 cont.....

- 28 – Museum open 10am-2pm

September 2022

- 4 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 11– Museum open 10am-2pm
- 18– Museum open 10am-2pm
- 18 – Meeting 2pm
- 25 – Museum open 10am-2pm

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.