

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

Welcome to 2022. Since our last newsletter we have opened our Nerang Railway Station display. Thanks to Bunnings, Nerang for the lovely plants that we have planted in the front of the station platform. Thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas party. 2022 is looking like it will be another busy year with schools and community groups already making bookings. We thank all our friends for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at the Museum in 2022.

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 = it has now gone up top \$1.10 - 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 but 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



Digging the holes and planting Lillypillies along the railway line. Many thanks to Bunnings, Nerang who kindly donated the plants.



Opening of the display on the Nerang Railway Station, November 2021.



Above: Our President, Joan Rudd, welcoming visitors to the opening of the railway display.

Right: Cr. Glenn Tozer, hammering in the Golden Spike.

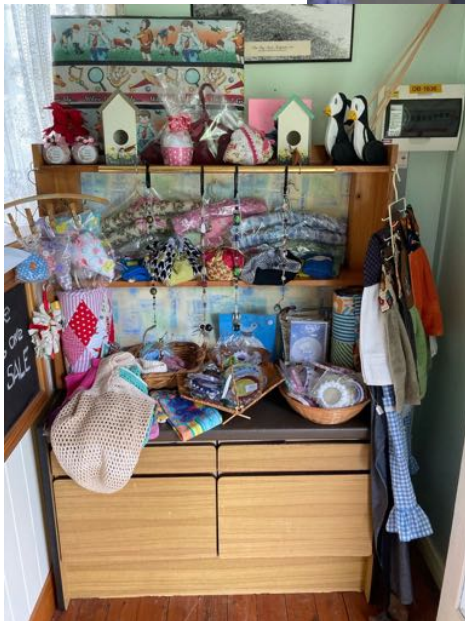
Below: Cr Glenn Tozer ready to hammer in the Golden Spike.





Cr Glenn Tozer at the opening.

Josh Tarrant, Queensland Museum Development Officer, created the display with assistance from City of Gold Coast Heritage Unit..



Have you seen the wonderful array of craft items we have for sale at the Museum? They are displayed just inside the main entrance.

Christmas 2021



A TRIP TO NERANG.

BY C.F.C

A TRIP TO NERANG. (1877, December 29). The Week (Brisbane, Qld. : 1876 - 1934), p. 22.

Retrieved September 7, 2021, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article181789893>

Continued

After filling my baskets, I took a rest and watched the ungainly pelican flitting along the edge of the beach in search of his prey, the seagull, curlew, and other birds following suit, and inhaling the fresh breeze. I prepared my appetite for that onslaught with which I intended to astonish the natives on my return home. Amongst my visits in the neighbourhood of Southport I went round the Nerang Creek and arrived at the sawmills of Messrs. Wildash and Hutchinson; who carry on this business in conjunction with their lease of about 40 miles of Stradbroke Island, called Coogeree, where they have erected dwellings and other buildings, in connection with their pastoral pursuits there. This sawmill was in work when I visited it but has been temporarily suspended for the purpose of increasing the power of the machinery and it is to be hoped it will ere long be in full work, finding material for building up the new town of Southport, the future queens of watering places for the whole colony of Queensland. About three miles further on I visited Bundall, the sugar plantation of Messrs. Miskin, Morris and Holland, situate pleasantly on the bank of the creek. The houses of the two former gentlemen are about 500 yards from each other, and the mill about half a mile lower down. Here were busy scenes of industry. The boiling was in full operation. The dusky kanakas stood over large cauldrons of seething liquor, like the witches in 'Macbeth', presided over by their employers; and a more happy, and contented and intelligent lot of workmen I never saw together. Talk of low types of labour, barring their colour, these fellows looked to me quite as decent as railway navvies, and I dare say, naturally they are quite as well behaved, and the character given of them by their employers warranted such impressions. Many of them had been there for a long period, and had their £50 in the savings bank, and I was told they could be trusted implicitly. One female I saw was acting as nurse, and although her colour strongly contrasted with her infant charge, she seemed notwithstanding to handle it as carefully and gently as a 'White Mary'. The sugar is made here on the new mono-sulphite, or De Lissa process and a sample I brought away has been highly commended. I passed on to Mr Muir's plantation, Benowa and found him also busy manufacturing, with similar success.

Now I must indulge in a little descriptive here. I accompanied Mr Muir from his boiling house to his swelling house, situate on a rising knoll at a little distance. Here enchantment suddenly burst upon my visual organs. Standing on his verandah, the eye passes over a large area of splendid alluvial soil gradually sloping down to the Nerang Creek or River, all clothed with the luxuriant verdure of sugar cane. Then it takes in a broad reach of pellucid water, whose margin is fringed with various tinted foliage, towering above which on the opposite bank is a rich and dense patch of tropical growth, amongst which the pocket bean, with its palmy crown and pendant fruit stands most conspicuous. Beyond this rises the primeval forest extending away into the far distance; whilst crossing this vast panorama stands out against the sky in bold relief the noble background of the McPherson Range, dividing the colonies, and looking down on the sluggish Tweed as it crawls along in sinuous track at the foot of its gorges and ravines, its waters assisting the denizens of this solitary region in redeeming from pristine nature the forest and the glade, and where someday the present sound of the bullock bell and the stockwhip will be succeeded by the gong or the steam whistle, calling busy hands to the mill and the barn.

Having now described the incidents of my trip, let me sum up my impressions of this new township of Southport. The situation is good. The road to it by land is a good bush road and accessible by buggy in a day from Brisbane. By sea the passage is smooth and could be accomplished in a dingy. The landing is safe and easy, and at almost all weathers passengers can be landed by boat from the steamer. At the end of the sand slip, near Deep Water Point, the steamer could go alongside a wharf, and land on the beach. There is a reserve of an esplanade of two chains depths all along the beach and a good road could be made at a small expense. A few culverts, for which there is ample timber on the spot, and a little levelling and filling, is all that is required to make a good drive. There is an abundance of fish of all kinds to be had for the catching; and oysters breed there innumerable. The bathing is first class. You can bathe at any hour of the day, the bottom being smooth, and gradually shelving out to deep water. There are no sharks inside the Heads to trouble you. Those that are sometimes seen are small and are more frightened of you than you of them, and they skedaddle instantly they see you. There is a post three times a week, which, of course, will soon have to be a daily one when the place forges ahead – which it must do speedily if the people are allowed to get the land. I was desirous of securing an allotment with a view of having a marine retreat for my family; and on reference to the map, I find all the lots from 4 to 16 of section 4, and 1 to 14 of section 5,

unsold and applied to select one at the upset price. This I was refused, and I was told the allotments were all withdrawn from selection. There are several good high lots in section 3 which the Government did not put up at the first auction sale, and which are still reserved. Now I do not know what the Government wish to do – either they do not want the place to go ahead, or they have some selfish idea that, by keeping it back, it will be more valuable by and bye. This is not honest administration of the public lands; but this department has always been noted for its dodgery and want of fixed principle – one day everything must go to auction, the next selection is the order of the day. any man who is a bona fide selector of a small piece of land for permanent settlement is blocked and refuse, whilst the comorant (sic) squatter can dummy his thousands of acres and the Jacks-in-office look on and wink. Now is the time for an enterprising man to put up a good hotel at Southport. He would have it filled with visitors. The numbers of families all through the Logan district, Beenleigh and other places beside metropolitan and country people are anxious to avail themselves of this healthful spot and there is at present but one cottage available. The butcher visits the place at present only weekly, but once get a few more houses up and he would attend daily. The store would follow. One person who has secured a good frontage near Johnstone's, has I see, placed a lot of timber on the ground, evidently with the intention of building, but he has delayed until the white ant has got into the pine and rendered his flooring boards useless. I took the opportunity of testing the question of the white ant being good for food, having often heard that the aboriginals esteemed it a delicacy and knowing that it was such amongst the African race. Sweeping a quantity that were thickly strewed between two pine planks, into a billy, I took them home and fried them and spreading them with pepper and butter on bread, like anchovy paste, I ate then, the result being not disagreeable. They were not unlike shrimp paste, though not so palatable. There are doubtless many things we don't eat because they appear forbidding, but I should like to ask which is more disagreeable to the eye – the white ant, which resembles a grain of rice, or the oyster, which is not in advance of the snail. The cockroach has lately been discovered to be a remedy in neuralgia, but he is an unsightly insect and could only be made available on compulsion; but amongst the insect tribes as comestibles, I think we must draw the line at the white ant. In reptiles I stop at the iguana. I have eaten him and pronounce him good. I have not had courage to try snakes, although I am told they are a delicacy, properly dressed.

To return to Southport statistics. It has been suggested to make a tramway from Nerang Creek to the Tweed to tap the New South Wales

and I was informed that matters went so far that our Portmaster and the Engineer of Harbours were instructed to visit the locality and report and that they had made arrangements accordingly. On a certain day they appeared off the coast in the Laura, steamer. Johnstone, by previous concert, was ready with a conveyance to take them down the main beach and a boat to take them and the conveyance to that spot. An interested individual boarded the Laura, told the authorities they could not land at Johnstone's and that he was away from home and had no conveyance ready; sad so they returned to Brisbane, 'humbled' and the report was not made. Now, there is no engineering difficulty whatever: it is a straight, level run from the Tweed to the Nerang and Port Tunnel, under Birley Heads is the only bit of engineering. The whole of the trade in timber, maize, and sugar could be carried on between Brisbane and Nerang and there would be no necessity for the dangerous and uncertain sea voyage from Nerang Heads to the Tweed mouth, where sometimes vessels are delayed by low water and contrary winds for many weeks. The passenger traffic to Nerang from Brisbane would increase greatly and steamers with a light draught of water could ply daily. The tramway could be made for £3,000 a mile, and it could meet a branch line through Beenleigh and on to Oxley and thus establish communication with the interior all the way by rail. This is a branch scheme I commend to the member for the district and it would be more good to his constituents and the colony at large than all his teetotal agitation. I would recommend him to look to the present accommodation provided at the Nerang Creek 'Hotel' and see that both the police and the bench of magistrates do their duty next licensing day. A license to a bad house keeps a good one out of the market and whilst we have public houses licensed let the proprietors be compelled to comply with the regulations of the Act. To be told you can have accommodation, but you must make your own bed, cook your own damper, and forage about for grub, and make yourself generally useful, and then find there's no stock on the premises to fall back on, beyond a little flour, is hardly in accordance with the spirit of a license. Two items proposed to be of service to this locality have been done in a manner not uncommon to the carrying out of public works. One is a lighthouse or beacon, and this by all accounts is placed on the wrong spot and is more likely to cause danger than prevent it. It should have been placed on the point at Stradbroke, where it can be seen at a greater distance and hours before it can be seen anywhere else by vessels coming up the coast and although it is supposed to be lighted regularly during the fortnight, I was at Southport it was oftener omitted than lighted. The other was a breakwater for the purpose of improving Nerang Creek. About three chains of stones at a

cost of £300 have been placed along a sand spit parallel with the current and covered at high water, which has about as much effect on the current as if it were sunk in the midst of Moreton Bay. Had this wash been completed and made five times as long and three times as high it might have been effective. In like manner little driblets of money are often spent just as a sop to the constituencies of a troublesome member and in like manner is so much money wasted.

My voyage home depended on the return of the Arakoon from the Tweed, and I was glad to see her come through the heads in the daytime, or rather in the afternoon and although the sea was rougher than I had seen it during my stay, I re-embarked with little inconvenience and bade 'good-bye' to Southport, its refreshing breezes, cool evenings and pleasant walks. To avoid the mosquitos higher up, the vessel dropped anchor for the night just above Endgevee (sic) under Stradbroke: and while at anchor Mr Wildash came on board and spent a few hours. I regretted my inability to visit Stradbroke as I was given to understand that there was much worth seeing and to be enjoyed there the beach being on a par with the main beach before described, and the shells to be obtained of a finer character, besides plenty of good shooting on the island. Getting underweigh (sic) early next morning, our return to Brisbane was a little varied, as we went near to St Helena, and the water being low, we stopped half-an-hour off this penal settlement and had a good view of it. There were evident signs of work going on and it seemed a pity to see so beautiful a spot as that being appropriated to the requirements of a convict establishment. I was told that the island, when selected for a penal settlement, had an immense quantity of most splendid timber trees on it of a great commercial value, all of which were ruthlessly destroyed by burning off, which would have produced a revenue of a large amount. Why was not convict labour made to utilise this raw material which by the aid of sawmills, might have enriched the Exchequer? My narrative has now come to an end and my foot is safe again on Quinlan's wharf, and I can only say the result of a fortnight at Southport has been an agreeable passing away of the time, and a renovator of health and vigour to the overtaxed nerves and body generally. Imagination often pictures future events – but more unlikely things have happened in a short time than witnessing Southport gazetted as a Municipality, with Johnstone, the pioneer, first Mayor and an ex-mayor of Ipswich proposing his health at the inaugural banquet.

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.

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

February 2022

- 6 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 13 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 17 – Victoria Towers over 50s
- 20 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 20 – Meeting 2pm
- 27 – Museum open 10am-2pm

March 2022

- 6 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 13 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 17 – Worongary SS to be confirmed
- 20 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 21 – Marymount College to be confirmed
- 24 – Mudgeeraba Creek SS to be confirmed
- 27 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 28 – Mudgeeraba Creek SS to be confirmed
- 29 - Marymount College to be confirmed
- 31 – Worongary SS to be confirmed

April 2022

- 3 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 10 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 17 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 17 – Museum meeting 2pm
- 24 – Museum open 10am-2pm

May 2022

- 1 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 8 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 15 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 22 – Museum open 10am-2pm
- 29 – Museum open 10am-2pm

June 2022

- 3 – U3A group

July 2022

- 12 – Benowa SS to be confirmed
- 14 – Benowa SS to be confirmed
- 19 – Benowa SS to be confirmed
- 26/28 – Clover Hill SS to be confirmed

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.