

Newsletter



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

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(Mudgeeraba Heritage Centre)

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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 2023. Hope you all had a joyful time at Christmas and New Year. We are back in full swing here at the Museum. We started the year off with our Australia Day flag raising ceremony. Boy was it a hot and steamy day. Many thanks to the Albert Battery for performing the ceremony and firing their guns. Also thanks to Hinterland Community Band for providing the music for the day. We have schools booked in already for visits to the Museum. I want to thank all our volunteers for their hard work keeping the Museum in good shape. I would also like to thank them for surviving the heat and humidity on Australia Day.

Joan

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

Museum happenings

[Below] Christmas 2022





[Below] We had a visit from the Gold Coast 4-wheel drive Club.



[Below] Our laundry had a makeover thanks to Pam, Neil, Carol & Peter.





[Below] Sandra from 'Yesterday Stories' interviewed Neil as part of a promotional documentary on our Museum.



[Below] Australia Day 2023 at the Museum









NERANG – LATE MRS GAWN

NERANG (1940, April 19). South Coast Bulletin (Southport, Qld. : 1929 - 1954), p. 6. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188878783>

The funeral of the late Mrs Annabella Gawn was conducted by the Rev. K.A. Watts, commencing with a service at 2pm at St. Margaret's (Anglican), Nerang. The cortege to the Nerang cemetery was preceded by members of Nerang R.S.S.A.I.L.A., members of the Old Moreton Regiment and Rifle Club and followed by the children of St. Margaret's Sunday School and Nerang State school, St. Margaret's Ladies' Guild, representatives of the Southport CWA carrying wreaths and also a large number of cars. The high esteem in which Mrs Gawn was held was proved by the large and representative gathering which attended to pay their last respects to a well-beloved citizen. The chief mourners Mr. T. Gawn, senr. and son Mr T. Gawn (Warwick).

OBITUARY

OBITUARY (1940, April 12). South Coast Bulletin (Southport, Qld. : 1929 - 1954), p. 12. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188873298>

The death occurred yesterday of Mrs Annabella Gawn, of Nerang, at the age of 70. The late Mrs. Gawn had resided in the district for the past 30 years, and her passing will be mourned by a large circle of friends in both Nerang and Southport, with whom she held more than a passing interest. She was widely respected and held an outstanding reputation as a nurse.

Born at Prahram, in Victoria, her maiden name was Miss Annabella Emmins, she was trained as a nurse at the Melbourne Hospital. In 1896 she went to Western Australia to join the Rev. G.W. Rower 'Sisters' of the People'. She travelled across the continent on a lemonade cart, which was long before the advent of the railways, to what is known as the old camp Coolgardie. With another Sister she was nursing miners and dry-blowers, in hessian tents, who had contracted enteric fever. Afterwards she joined the West Australian Nursing Sisters' for the South African war and served for the duration. Following the war she took charge of the children's' ward at the new Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, and in 1909 resigned to come to Brisbane where she married Mr. Thomas Gawn.

With her husband Mrs Gawn lived at Drillham and Cooran before coming to Nerang where they carried on business as general storekeepers.

She was noted for her charitable work and was actively associated with a number of public bodies. The late Mrs Gawn was a warden of St. Margaret's Church of England for a number of years, and a teacher at the Sunday School. She was also an honorary ambulance bearer, and a vice-president of the Southport CWA. Four years ago she had the misfortune to lose a leg and was confined to an invalid chair.

She is survived by her husband.

Burial took place at the Nerang cemetery at 2pm this afternoon.



BULLOCK TEAMS – It's thought that a number of modern roads in the Hinterland evolved from early timber tracks.

<https://www.goldcoaststories.com.au/bullock-teams/>

Bullock teams, and large heavy horse teams, were an integral part of the Gold Coast's early timber industry transporting felled logs from the Hinterland to meet the almost insatiable need for timber for the growing settlements of the region.

As late as 1930 there were 24 bullock teams on the roads of the Gold Coast Hinterland, transporting logs from the slopes of the McPhersons through Advancetown to Nerang wharf or after the arrival of trains in 1903, the railway station.

Advancetown was a half way unyoking place, where drivers and bullocks rested, ate and drank. It's thought that a number of modern roads in the Hinterland evolved from these early timber getter tracks. A visitor to the region in 1884 noted that timber wagons could be seen at every turn. On 16 January 1934, Hughie and Johnnie Guinea, with their bullocks, hauled the last load of logs from Advancetown to Nerang signalling the end of an era. The role of the huge bullocks had been replaced by large trucks.

While trucks were preferred, they were not able to access the dense scrub and difficult to reach places, but the bullocks required food and water that was not always accessible on the logging grounds. On Occasion the rough terrain prevented the bullock teams from reaching the felled timber and it was left behind.

Hughie Guinea recalls that the arrival of the trucks "... was not the end of those stout-hearted bullocks who we loved as part of our family. I lost count of the number of times I was asked to yoke my bullocks to pull timber trucks out of bogs or ditches. If a bullocky lived to be 100 he always remembered his bullocks, each one was called by name, and each one had a different personality. They were magnificent courageous creatures." Many people are surprised to learn that there are still bullockies and working teams across Australia, including one in the Gold Coast Hinterland.



[Above] Philip Thomson's bullock team in Mudgeeraba street parade, 2014.

[Right] Jesse Bird's bullock teams driving past the original Surfers Paradise Hotel, circa 1927.

[Below] Jack Morgan's bullock team at Latimers Crossing, circa 1920.

(Images courtesy of City of Gold Coast Local Studies collection).



THE BOOMERANG FARM – Dr. Lorin Hawes, an American aeronautical scientist, settled on the Gold Coast and opened the Boomerang Farm as a tourist attraction in 1965.

<https://www.goldcoaststories.com.au/the-boomerang-farm/>

Johann Rosin settled his family in Mudgeeraba in 1885. On his new property, which he named Boomerang Farm, he planted a vineyard, grew corn and bananas, managed a successful citrus orchard and, in later years, ran a cattle property and dairy. In 1937, after Johann's death, the property was sold and the family relocated to Brisbane.

In 1960 Dr Lorin Hawes, an American aeronautical scientist who had worked on the atom bomb project in the USA, settled in the Gold Coast Hinterland on the former Rosein property. Guaranteeing that he could teach anyone to throw a boomerang, he opened the Boomerang Farm as a tourist attraction in 1965.

Designing his boomerangs using existing aerodynamic principles he started manufacturing boomerangs in a 70-year-old barn on the 200 acre farm. His factory produced 6,000 boomerangs each month.

While the Boomerang Farm was never a major attraction it received considerable publicity and was visited by many people curious to learn about boomerangs and explore the property.

In 1994 Rob and James King built a nine hole, par 35 golf course on 40 acres of the original Boomerang Farm.



The Boomerang Farm, Mudgeeraba, 1919. [City of Gold Coast local Studies collection]

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 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 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.