

July 2024

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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

Lots has been happening at the Museum lately. We have had several schools visit as well as visits from respite groups, Probus, artists, and students filming. We are also displaying at the Mudgeeraba Show. The Mudgeeraba Street party was a resounding success. Much thanks to Pam & Neil and Peter & Carol and Pam & Neil's grandsons for representing the Museum at the Street Party. These same people as well as Warren are manning our display at the Mudgeeraba Show. Many thanks to everyone for your time and dedication.

Joan

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

What's been happening at the Museum

Mudgeeraba Street Party



Kirra / Tugun Probus Club visit and morning tea





Broadbeach branch of the Royal Queensland Art Society visit to enjoy some painting in the sun.





Local school students used the Museum as the background for a school movie project. The buildings used were Okey House, Nerang Railway Station and Slab hut.





The Museum had a presence again this year at the Mudgeeraba Show.





DID YOU KNOW? Did you know that it is 60 years since the original South Coast Railway made it last run to Southport through the Ernest Junction tunnel (which is still there). The 28th June 1964 was a special day for the Nerang Railway Station as it was the day the last steam train travelled to Nerang as a special train organised by the ARHS. From June 30th, 1961, the Nerang Railway Station was only used as a freight depot with no passenger train using the Ernest Junction to Nerang branch line. This service was stopped on the 30th April 1964 and only the special trains operated by the ARHS used this station. The gold Coast Hinterland Heritage Museum is fortunate to have the original Nerang Railway Station building as



part of the complex. The building is almost in its original layout and is believed to be the only remaining building left from the original South Coast Line.



Pacific Cable Station

<https://www.goldcoaststories.com.au/pacific-cable-station/> viewed 05/05/2024

Until 1870 Australia's only means of communication with the rest of the world was via vessels travelling the international shipping routes. With sea voyages that could last months, a more reliable and faster communication method was required and, in 1864, the Gutta-Percha Company and the cable makers Glass Elliot of Greenwich united to supply a submarine telegraph cable to span the Atlantic Ocean.

This venture was a success and a telegraphic cable between Canada and Australia was proposed with a possible route being suggested in 1899.

The passing of the Pacific Cable Act in 1901 resulted in the British, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian Governments financing the cable from Vancouver via Fanning Island, Norfolk Island, Fiji and New Zealand to a final destination on the mainland Australia at Southport in Queensland.

In 1902 the *Colonia*. A ship that was built especially for the project, commenced laying 3458 nautical miles of cable. At the time, it was believed to be the longest single length of cable in the world and took just under eighteen days to put in place.



The cost of laying the copper wire cored cable, protected by gutta percha wrapping followed by twelve strands of steel armour wire, was 2,000,000. The cable was 2.2cm in diameter and was laid at depths of 3000 fathoms for most of the route.

On 8 March 1902 the *Anglia* arrived at Southport to bring the cable ashore just south of Main Beach. Upon reaching land, the cable was laid in a six-foot-deep trench that ran through sand dunes before crossing the Nerang River to terminate at the Cable Station in Bauer Street.

The station complex included a block of offices and staff quarters for 22 officers with a separate

residence for the superintendent. This was cutting edge technology for the

time and in addition to its role as Australia's cable station, it was also a training facility for officers who would later be relocated to other stations around the world.



The Cable Station was officially opened on the 4 November 1902 and operated until 1962. One of the cable station buildings was relocated to The Southport School (TSS) and some of the telegraph equipment and sample3s of cable are held at Gold

Coast Historical Society and Museum at Bundall.

The Pacific Cable technically ended at the Cable Hut in Main Beach near Narrow Neck where another internal cable was connected to cross the Nerang River to the Bauer Street receiving station.

In the first two decades of the 20th century Southport became the terminal for all Australian eastern seaboard telegraph calls from overseas. Officers would handle around 500 messages every weekday.

The original cable hut at Main beach was severely affected by storms and erosion in 1950 and was rebuilt in 1951 at the same location. The hut was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register on 3 May 2007 and is located in Cable Park in Main Beach.

PREPARATION FOR THE PACIFIC CABLE

PREPARATION'S FOR THE PACIFIC CABLE. (1902, March 11). The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933), p. 6. Retrieved June 5, 2024, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article19161596>

Important work has been going on in the neighbourhood of Southport during the past few days in preparation of the shore end of the Pacific cable, and it is hoped that on Wednesday or Thursday of this week, the cable steamer Anglia will be able to make her connections, and proceed on her voyage to Norfolk Island. The temporary cable office is at the corner of Heath Street and Brighton Parade, and from here the cable passes into Nerang Creek, and up the channel some little distance to a suitable landing place on the narrow point of land which here forms the right bank of the creek. The neck

of land is not much more than 700ft. wide, but there is an additional 1200ft. from there to the water's edge. Through the land and sand hummocks on the shore it has been found necessary to dig a deep trench so that the cable may rest always in damp soil, and in the looser portions this has been a work of some difficulty and risk; but we understand that it has now been successfully accomplished and that everything will be in readiness for the Anglia when she arrives. It is expected that she will leave the anchorage tonight or early on Wednesday morning.

More Mudgeeraba Show



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, Beatrice Booth, Odette Dalton.

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

April 2024

7 – Museum open 10am-2pm
14 – Museum open 10am-2pm
16 – Estia Health Aged Care
18 – Mudgeeraba Special School
21 – Museum open 10am-2pm
21 – Museum meeting 2pm
28 – Museum open 10am-2pm
30 Marymount school

May 2024

2 – Marymount school
5 – Museum open 10am-2pm
7 – Marymount school
8 – Mudgeeraba Creek SS
9 – Mudgeeraba Creek SS
12 – Museum open 10am-2pm
14 – Ashmore SS
16 – Ashmore SS

May 2024 cont....

19 – Museum open 10am-2pm
21 – Caningeraba SS
24 – Caningeraba SS
25 – Caningeraba SS
26 – Museum open 10am-2pm

June 2024

2 – Museum open 10am – 2pm
9 – Museum open 10am – 2pm
16 – Museum open 10am – 2pm
16 – Museum meeting 2pm
23 - Museum open 10am – 2pm
29 – Mudgeeraba Show
30 - Museum open 10am – 2pm
30 – Mudgeeraba Show

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.