

February 2026

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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

With January behind us the year is moving fast. In January our working bee in Okey House and other buildings and exhibits has made us ready for the busy months ahead. A big thank you to everyone for the hard work in such hot weather, making the Museum looking at its best.

School bookings are coming in fast, so it looks like busy months to come.

We recently received a grant from the Mudgeeraba Uniting Church for an umbrella to shade our picnic table. It will make it more comfortable for our visitors on hot days.

Lastly a big thank you to Joyce Panitz for her generous donation towards Joan's Memorial Rose Garden. Work on it is progressing nicely.

Thank you and well done everyone.

Neil



Some of our volunteers dressed in their Sunday best to attend the red-carpet event for the launch of the movie 'Code Noir'. Some scenes of the movie were filmed at the Museum.

Museum Happenings



After a busy year it was time to relax.



Memorial Rose Garden

Our Memorial Garden is ready for planting. Thanks to the hard work of Neil, Lloyd and Ian



Below: Our latest display in the Military Room.



Australian Idioms

WHAT PEOPLE THINK (1933, August 23). The Newcastle Sun (NSW : 1918 - 1954), p. 6. Retrieved February 8, 2026, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article165355986>

"Milton" (Newcastle) writes: - Mr George Bernard Shaw tells the story of the man who was invited to hear his friend's parrot say such sentences as 'Polly wants a drink,' "Give Polly a biscuit," but who, on arrival, could not understand a word of the bird's talk. It appears that the birds had once spoken distinctly but with repetition, its phrases had degenerated into a meaningless jumble of words. The transformation had been such a gradual one that the family had been unaware of it, although to the outsider it was painfully obvious.

Listening to a conversation between two Australians recently, I began to wonder whether we have not something in common with the parrot. Such phrases as 'not so hot' and 'you're tellin' me' cropped up so frequently in the conversation that I wondered what would be the impressions of a foreigner should he hear the choice collection of idioms.

The looseness of expression which characterises our speech does not seem to be due entirely either to the influence of the American 'talkies' or to our environment, though doubtless both play their part. It is due rather to the apathy with which the question is regarded. 'Near enough is good enough', seems to be the attitude.

The fault is not limited to any section of the community. With the coming of each new and wiser generation, a new crop of idioms and affectations are to be expected. Both young and old alike share the general disinclination to express themselves in clear English.

We take a national pride in the resources of our country, in the physique of our men and the beauty of our women, but we are judged rather by our conduct and our mode of self-expression.

If we are to be regarded overseas as having graduated from the colonial class, we must learn to speak like an educated people.

THE WEIRD & WONDERFUL WORLD OF AUSTRALIAN SLANG

<https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/news-events/vu-blog/australian-slang-dictionary> viewed 08/02/2026

Ever heard someone say they'll be *chucking a snag on the barbie this arvo*?

Or, that *Gazza's feeling crook*?

What about someone mentioning that *old mate* has given it a *fair shake of the sauce bottle*?

If you're wondering if there's a *galah having a gander* or a *bloke eating a biccie* – or if you're confusedly looking around for a bottle of tomato sauce – we get it. Australian slang is unique at the best of times, and total nonsense if you haven't come across it before.

So if you've been curious about Australian slang words, Aussie slang insults, or just want to understand what on earth people around you are actually saying, you're in the right place.

This guide will take you through the most popular slang terms, giving you the ultimate Aussie slang dictionary so you'll be able to decode conversations – *she'll be apples!* (Translation: it'll be fine and you'll do a great job).

Aussie salute – brushing away flies with the hand

Back of Bourke – a very long way away

Bloody oath! – that's certainly true

Blotto – very drunk

Blowie – blow fly

Bog in – commence eating

Bonzer – great, ripper

Bush telly – campfire

Corker – something excellent

Crook – sick, or badly made

Daks – trousers

Dipstick – a loser, idiot

Dosh – money

Earbashing – nagging

Fair shake of the sauce bottle – taking your fair share or having a fair go

Give it a burl – try it, have a go

Have a gander – have a look at something

Knackered – exhausted

Larrikin – a person who is always enjoying himself, harmless prankster

Moolah – money

Old mate – a friend or person you are referring to. Sometimes not a mate at all

Rack off – push off! Get lost!

She'll be apples / she'll be right – it'll turn out okay

Spit the dummy – get very upset at something

Sprung – caught doing something wrong

Tall poppies – successful people

Walkabout (it's gone walkabout) – it's lost, can't be found

Whacker, whacka – idiot

Wouldn't that rip the fork out of your nightie – extreme surprise, shock, frustration or dismay particularly over a trivial matter.

From Southern Queensland and Border Agricultural and Pastoral Association 50th Annual Show, Nerang, 1946 Souvenir Catalogue.

Merrimac Milk Factory started to supply pasteurised milk to Brisbane as early as 1918. The milk was placed in glass lined containers and conveyed to Worongary siding by a horse-drawn wagon. From 1918 till October 1936 milk was sent to Brisbane periodically in cans. In October 1936 the Modern Milk Supply took over the factory and transported milk to Brisbane by motor truck. Three years later this company merged into Paul's Ice Cream and Milk Ltd. Today milk is handled in the most modern and hygienic manner and conveyed to Brisbane in stainless steel lined tankers.

MINERALS

Many minerals have been found in various parts of the district, but not in payable quantities. In the late fifties and even up to the late nineties of last century every new arrival was a fossicker. In later years a mine was opened at Clagiraba; several prospectors from Nerang and Southport pegged out claims but little gold was found.

The wedding ring of Mrs J H Maynard (wife of the founder of the Show Society) was made from gold taken from a mine at mount Stapylton on the Albert River.

Prospectors at the mouths of Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creeks at times have taken enough gold from the sand to keep them. Rich mineral deposits, containing uranium, have been taken from the sub-layer of sand on South Coast beachers, proof that mineral wealth exists in the mountain country.

HONEY AS PRODUCT

In the early days of settlement, the natives often brought the sugar-bag honey in the comb, but soon settlers erected their own hives. Mrs Hayles, of Nerang, kept bees from 1877 until she left the district in 1890. She usually had from 40 to 50 hives and had no difficulty in selling the honey throughout the district. Mann Bros. and Mr Soegaard also kept bees. For the last 30 years Mr Rosser of Benowa, has been the most prominent apiarist on the South Coast.

Wine was produced by a Mr Bishop of Lower Coomera and Mr C Batten. At Mudgeeraba J Rosin and R Rathbone has vineries. A delicious orange wine was made by T G Walker of Upper Coomera. Some years ago, Mr Sean, an enterprising farmer of Mudgeeraba grew a considerable quantity of rice, but was not permitted by the Rice Board to sell it.

FIRST RACE MEETING

The first race meeting was held on the racecourse reserve on New Year Day, 1879, but as the ground was unsuitable future races were run in Veiver's two paddocks and across the Carrara-Nerang Road: a few panels of fencing being removed at the present entrance to the course, and on the opposite side of the road. The winning post was situated in what is now known as Bolton's paddock. The hillside made a perfect grandstand. Horses came from NSW, Beaudesert, Logan and other districts in the vicinity of Nerang and Coomera. Races were run under QTC rules and generally included a hurdle race.

An account of the first race meeting on that New Year's Day on that New Years Day in 1879 is given by an 'old timer'.

The course was almost uncleared and as rough as the blacks had found it. Admission to the ground was free.

The weighing-in shed was built of ti-tree saplings with bushes for a roof. The day was so wet and 'the course had so much water in the holes that spectators had to guess whether the horses were running or swimming.

Most people had gingham, which could be bought in those days at from 1/11 to 5/6 (and no coupons).

There was a publican's booth on the ground, with plenty of beer and spirits (good tack too, says this old-timer). The bottle and a glass were put on the counter and the imbibor was told to help himself (shades of old days, eh!)

A few old 'speilers' had found their way to Nerang that day and brought the famous (or infamous) thimble and pea game, and the under and over seven game. Another fake was spun round in a kind of octagonal box. One drew a ticket out of the box.

Jockeys on the course were Tommy Bailey, Jack Healy, Sandy Eastaughoffe, R Walker, Barnet Shay, Mangey and quite a number of abos.

Horses to line the barrier were Shamrock, Milly, Bawn, The Queen, The Wheel of Fortune, Courtier, Ben Cockerill's Peter Simple, Ernest Bellis' Mountaineer.

Bob Hope (the 1879 Bob and not the 1946 version) was in the 'boom' that day. His race mare, the Nun, with Tommy Mackenzie from Brisbane in the saddle was the winner of the big money – The Nerang Rand Handicap. Bob's Prince Arthur won the Flying Handicap.

The day ended with a grand dance in the Royal Mail Hotel that night, at which the Quadrilles, Lancers and all the popular whirls of the seventies were indulged in to the music of a concertina and fiddle (bet your life, says old timer).

RELIGIOUS LIFE IN DISTRICT

Prior to 1876 ministers of religion rarely visited the district. The Rev. Dan Debois (Church of England) made occasional visits and the Bishop Tufnel held Confirmation services at Coomera. From 1875 to the middle of 1886 Rev. James Gilbertson came as far as Nerang once a month, holding services in barns or houses until St. Margaret's was opened in 1878.

Sometime after December 18, 1877, William and Charles Philpott, descendants of many generations of English clergymen, called a meeting of Nerang churchmen at Birribi. About 20 attended and some of those present were Henry Schneider, H.G. Bryant, James Davies Jakmes Hurst, W J Browne, W S Hayles, Thomas J Johnson, James Page, Ben Cockerill, William Price, M R Walker. Those present promised amounts in pounds. When the total was announced Mr Philpott, thinking the amount was not enough said: 'Make it guineas' which was done. The land was procured on a hill overlooking the river, commanding one of the most picturesque views in the district. The church, which still stands, was built of local pit-sawn timber by Mr Maundy. The beautiful cedar pulpit (later made into an altar); prayer desk, altar rails and seats were a gift from Philpott's friends in England. A little prayer book and altar service book were given by Mr W Philpott. The first service was held in the church on January 20, 1878, when Rosamund Alice Browne was baptised. On April 3, 1879, the first marriage was celebrated; that of Henry Schneider to Mary Thomasine Cooper.

In 1882 Mr and Mrs Philpott and Mrs Browne started the first Sunday School, of which the latter was superintendent and teacher until the beginning of the present century.

A choir was formed and an organ purchased through the efforts of Mr W Philpott; Mrs Browne and her son, Edward Cooper in 1884.

In 1886 Rev. J Gilbertson left for Melbourne and the parish of Southport came into existence with the Rev. E Meeres as Rector; Nerang coming under his jurisdiction.

The first confirmation in the new parish was at Nerang, the church being too small for the number of candidates, the service was held in the Divisional Board Hall, on June 1, 1887, when sixty candidates were presented to Bishop Webber.

Previous to the building of the church services were held either at Birribi or the home of Mr W J Browne.

Services are now held twice monthly. The present wardens are Mrs Cooper (nee Hayles), of Birribon, and Mr A Parr, of Carrara. Services are also held monthly at Gilston.

St Peter's Church, Southport, was opened by Bishop Webber in 1887. The day following its opening, Dr Nelson, who had built the Presbyterian Church, died. He was the grandfather of the present Rector of St Peter's.

About 1880 a Congregational Church was opened in Southport. On the eve of the opening a concert was arranged in which vocalists included Miss Provost (schoolteacher) and D Ewart

(school inspector). W E Hanlon was the accompanist. R T Johnston's daughter also rendered a solo.

Rev Father Scortechini was one of the first Catholic priests to visit the South Coast regularly. Services were held in Shay's Star Court Hotel. About the middle eighties the present church was built in White Street, Nerang.

The Methodist Church in Price Street, Nerang, was built in 1889, and visiting preachers were Mr Sneyd and Alecander Douglas.

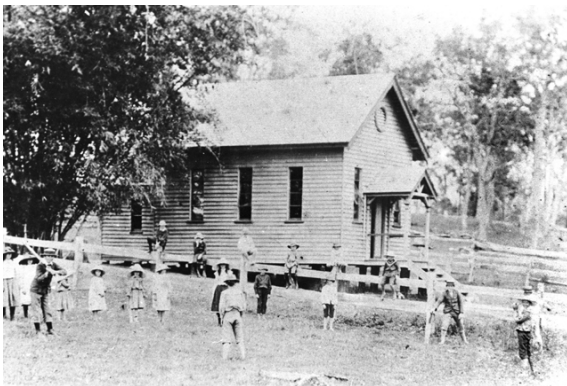
In the early eighties, Mrs Laver, mother of the late William Laver, Mudgeeraba, had a building erected for Church of England services, with the stipulation that denominations might use it. It

is still being used. The Lower Mudgeeraba school was formed in it for several years, until the Department of Education erected a State School sometime after the railway went through to Tweed Heads.

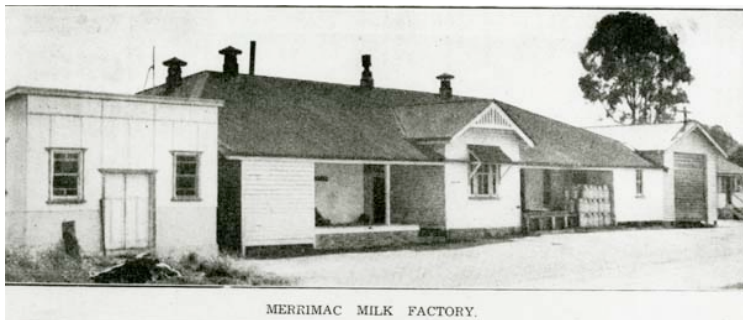


1930-31. [Image courtesy CoGC Local Studies Collection]

Bridget Shay first erected the Star Hotel in 1888. The Star Hotel was moved to the Price street site and renamed 'The Commercial' when the original Commercial burnt down in



This church was built in 1890 for 69/14/- pounds on land donated by W. H. Laver. The first minister was Rev. W. A. Smith who rode from Southport to conduct a service once a month and Mr and Mrs S. Andrews were the first couple married in the church. From 1892 the building also housed the Mudgeraba Lower Provisional School (note the originally spelling of Mudgeeraba was with one 'e') until 1915. [Image courtesy CoGC Local Studies Collection]



The Merrimac Milk Factory, opened in 1936 in the former cheese factory, and supplied the Brisbane metropolitan market. The factory burned down in 1957



Wedding portrait of Henry Schneider and Mary Thomasine Cooper, April 3, 1879. They were the first marriage in St Margaret's Church of England, Nerang.

Management Committee 2025

Joan Rudd [Patron], Neil Sands [President], Anne Panitz [Secretary]. Sue Mills [Treasurer, Registrar, Newsletter] Jack Rudd, Brian Cox, Lenore Crouch, Pam Sands, Peter Jones, Carol Jones, Warren Davis, Tom Cowper, Lloyd Mills, , Odette Dalton.

Meetings held 3rd Sunday of the month.

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 including an application form may be obtained from the secretary.

Diary Dates - subject to change without notice

December 2025

7 – Museum open 10am-2pm
14 – Museum open 10am-2pm
21 – CLOSED
28 – CLOSED

JANUARY 2026

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

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.