

July 2025

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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

Thanks for everyone for all your hard work. We have a busy month ahead with school. There is ongoing maintenance happening around the Museum grounds. Thanks to the hard work from our volunteers in completing these tasks. We wish Joan a speedy recovery from everyone at the Museum.

Neil

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

MUDGEERABA STREET PARTY

On Sunday 18th May our volunteers – Pam, Neil, Carol and Peter as well as a couple of Pam & Neil's grandsons attended the Mudgeeraba Street Party. The rest of the volunteers held the fort at the Museum.





MUDGEERABA SHOW 2025

Thanks to Pam & Neil, Peter & Carol, Warren, Ian for manning the Museum display at the Mudgeeraba Show.





Gilston CWA

GILSTON CWA (1946, June 19). *South Coast Bulletin* (Southport, Qld: 1929 – 1954), p. 10.
Retrieved May 18, 2025, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article194850942>

With an enrolment of 13 members the Gilston branch of the Country Women's Association was launched on May 29th when Mrs Rawlins, president of the Southport branch attended and spoke of the aims and objects of the Association. The following officers were elected president, Mrs F. Curnow, hon. sec. Mrs D.G. Daw, treasurer Mrs F. Goodfellow, vice-presidents Mesdames J. Zimmermann, M. Hinde, J. Powell and E. Rose. The first business meeting was held on June 12th the thirteen foundation members were present and one new member was accepted. Mrs Curnow presided and it was decided to hold a dance on July 20th to raise funds. At the close of the meeting members were entertained at afternoon tea the hostesses being Mesdames McKavanagh, Zimmerman and Bowden.

Extracts from (Celebrating 50 years QCWA South Eastern Division 1st December 1960 – 1st December 2010)

SPRINGBROOK BRANCH

The Springbrook Branch of QCWA was formed on 5th June 1957 with 23 members. Over the years, meetings have been held in members' homes in Southport. And in the Springbrook Hall, with at least 3 meetings per year on the mountain.

In the early years, members learnt handcrafts, and some became handcraft teachers. The Springbrook Branch also had some talented quilt makers.

The Branch became actively involved with Springbrook School, each year presenting 1 guinea to the boy or girl attaining the highest Scholarship pass.

An annual ball was held for a few years, at one there was a mannequin parade with members' husbands and sons modelling alongside their wives / mothers.

In 1958 the Hall Committee gave permission for QCWA to start a library in the hall. As Wynnum North was closing down their library, the Branch was given a good start by them donating their books to Springbrook branch. Each year more books were added.

The Branch's main source of income for many of the early years was street stalls in Southport and at Annual Meetings.

One member, who had been a kindergarten teacher in her early years held classes for the members younger children (approx. 7 or 8 children under school age), thus allowing the younger mothers to be able to attend meetings without interruption.

Springbrook Branch have always held Cookery, Knitting & Crochet competitions with Nerang and Gilston branches combining with Springbrook around 1970s. International Days were combined with Nerang, which were enjoyable and kept the two small branches in touch.

The Branch had links with other branches in New Zealand, Ireland and Canada.

SPRINGBROOK / MUDGEERABA BRANCH

In 1982, after 25 years as a branch, dwindling membership of Springbrook Branch put the Branch in a position of going into recess. Councillor John Franklin suggested trying to interest the ladies of Mudgeeraba to join with Springbrook. At a meeting held at Mrs Hockings' home in Southport, where 10 ladies were present, it was decided to elect a new committee.

The Branch changed its name to Springbrook/Mudgeeraba, to incorporate those living in Mudgeeraba, and meetings were held in the Uniting Church at Mudgeeraba. 16 members were present at the first meeting in November 1982. Later, the meeting venue changed to the Mudgeeraba Show Hall.

For many years this Branch joined with Nerang Branch to provide morning tea at the Gold Coast City Council Australia Day function at Evandale. The Branch now caters for this function on its own, flying the QCWA flag for the rest of the Division to old and new Australian Citizens.

NUMINBAH VALLEY BRANCH

The Numinbah Valley Branch commenced on 13th September, 1957. It was formed in response to a public meeting called in the School of Arts by Clarice Quietzsh (now Dresher) and Winnie Lentz. Many ladies had voiced their concerns about the distance needed to be travelled to attend the Gilston branch of QCWA.

Mrs Lahey, the South Coast QCWA Division President, presided at the official opening of the Numinbah Valley branch and nineteen local ladies enrolled on the opening day.

The first main committee members were Elizabeth Stafford, Molly Stafford, Phyllis Bochow, Alice Thompson, Eileen Cooke, Del Cooke, Leila Broadhead, Margaret Lentz, Amy Lentz, Unice Green, Marie Garrad, Nancy Yaun, Eden Yaun, Hazel Holden, Doreen O'Connor, Inez McKinnon, Margaret Zimmerman, Estelle Born, Kath Garrard and Madge McGregor.

QCWA meetings were held once a month in the School of Arts and activities conducted over the years included cookery contests, fetes, darts afternoons, dances, mannequin parades, Easter bonnet and fancy-dress balls.

The Numinbah Valley branch of the QCWA was responsible for initiating the first Spring Carnival and raising 147 pounds (\$294) to fund extensions for the hall. They also purchased the tables currently in the hall from Theodores Café in Southport when it closed down.

Sadly, due to lack of members, Numinbah Valley closed in 1969.

The final committee members were: Gladys McKavanagh (President), Kath Clementson (Secretary); Tess Stormonth (Treasurer); Peggie Hinze (Vice President); and Molly Stafford (Vice President).

NERANG BRANCH

The Nerang Branch was formed in August 1953. Earlier meetings were held in the Pony Room, but in 1966 the decision was made to hold Branch meetings in the Gilston Hall. In 1998 members attended the Dedication Ceremony of QCWA Park in Nerang – a gift from Gold Coast City Council – in recognition of QCWA service to the Gold Coast and surrounding areas. Nerang member, Miss Margaret Bruce did a lot of the groundwork for this project. In the years since tree planting ceremonies have been held on Arbor Day in the QCWA Park at Nerang.

QCWA (and particularly Nerang Branch) has been associated with Australia Day for more than 20+ years. It began when Miss Margaret Bruce, one of the original organisers of the former Albert Shire Council's Australia Day celebrations at Carrara, persuaded Members of the former CWA Gilston Branch, to serve billy tea and damper along the Bush Trach. The tradition continued.

Nerang Branch members have been very innovative with their fund-raising activities including : stalls/handicraft tables at community events, shopping centres and the Mudgeeraba Show; Display of Excellence stand at Antique Show; annual fashion parade; raffles; table setting competitions against other branches; catering/hospitality services for community events and functions, including citizenship/naturalisation ceremonies for the Gold Coast City Council; aged care, environment Day at Rosser Park.

In 2001/2002 the Branch gave a generous donation to Dr R John Kearney who took a team of eye surgeons to East Timor on a sight restoration mission among its people. St Joseph's Home of Compassion in Northern India is a home for sick and abandoned children that was founded by a former Gold Coast nurse and lay Sister who runs the Home with a small team of volunteers. The Nerang Branch have adopted this cause as close to their hearts and have sent many donations over the years.

NERANG STATE SCHOOL turns 150 in 2025

Did you know that the Nerang State School will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary on Friday 7 November 2025.

If you know of anyone who attended the school between 1875 to the present, you can find out further information at the following:

- www.nerangss.eq.edu.au

- Follow Nerang State Primary School on Facebook
- Email admin@nerangss.eq.edu.au
- Phone 07 5581 4777
- 3 Nerang Street, Nerang.

From 125th Anniversary Edition – 1875 NERANG STATE SCHOOL 2000

Notes of 1925

Our Nation

- Radio station 2UE, Australia's oldest 'B' class (commercial) station begins broadcasting in Sydney.
- Election for House of Representatives and half Senate (the first federal election under compulsory voting). Bruce Page's government re-elected with a large majority.
- Windbag wins the Melbourne Cup, which is broadcast for the first time.

Our State

- First election held for the Greater Brisbane Council
- William McCormack replaces Gillies as Premier of Qld.

Our Capital City

- Brisbane Repertory Theatre is established.
- Eagle Farm is officially chosen as an airport in Brisbane
- Petrol-driven buses first appear in Brisbane.
- First elections for the Greater Brisbane Council
- Brisbane's first radio station, 4QG, owned by the State Government commences transmission, initially temporarily set up in the State Government Executive Building before moving to the State Insurance Building, then the city's tallest building.

Our Neighbourhood, our School

- 1925 History of the Birminghams as related by Ursula Birmingham in 1985. Ursula was borne into a family with a long record of community involvement in the Nerang and Mudgeeraba districts. Her grandfather, Isaac Rankin Andrews was born in Mudgeeraba and served as a councillor on the Nerang Shire Council for thirty-six years. This was an unpaid position. Nine of these years he was Chairman. He and his wife Grace Veivers had twelve children, six boys and six girls. Each child was left a parcel of land in the Mudgeeraba Springbrook area. Isaac Rankin's second son was also an Isaac Rankin. He was born in 1880. He was involved in the timber industry and had the first grocery shop at Mudgeeraba. He married Florence Lillian Shay whose family were pioneers in early Nerang. They had five children and Ursula is one of their children.

New Faces

- Achilles, William
- Beauchamp, Clara
- Bhugwana Singh, Chrissie
- Brown, Alfred
- Coleman, Joan
- Combes-Beakey, Dulcie
- Combes-Beakey, Clarris
- Gallagher, Berryl
- Gibson, James
- Just, Elsie
- Mann, Angela
- Marshall, Isobelle
- Marshall, Walter
- McCarthy, Erald
- Miller, Jack
- Nitz, Agnes
- Nitz, Ernest
- Nitz, William
- O'Brien, Dorothy
- O'Brien, Edward
- Priem, William
- Stockee, Norman
- Smith, Radiance
- Smith, Neville
- Smith, Douglas
- Tullock, Iris
- Tullock, Jean
- Turner, Clinton

Girls class group at Nerang State School, 1925. Eunice Latimer – 2nd row from back 2nd from left. Nellie Birt – 2nd row from back 3rd from left. (image City of Gold Coast Council Local Studies collection).



Nerang State School building and residence, ca 1914. (Image City of Gold Coast Local Studies collection)

Management Committee 2024

Joan Rudd [President], Anne Panitz [Secretary]. Sue Mills [Treasurer, Registrar, Newsletter] Jack Rudd, Brian Cox, George O'Brien, Lenore Crouch, Neil Sands [acting vice-president], Pam Sands, Peter Jones, Carol Jones, Warren Davis, Tom Cowper, Lloyd Mills, , 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

JULY 2025

6 – Museum open 10am-2pm
9 – Anglicare
13 – Museum open 10am-2pm
15 – Benowa SS
16 – Benowa SS
17 – Benowa SS
20 – Museum open 10am-2pm
20 – Museum meeting 2pm
27 – Museum open
28 – Clover Hill SS
29 – Clover Hill SS

AUGUST 2025

3 – Museum open 10am-2pm
4 – Burleigh Heads SS
5 – Hillcrest College
7 – Hillcrest College
10 – Museum open 10am-2pm
11 – St Augustine
12 – St Vincents
14 – St Vincents
17 – Museum open 10am-2pm
17 – Museum AGM
21 – Gilston SS
24 – 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.