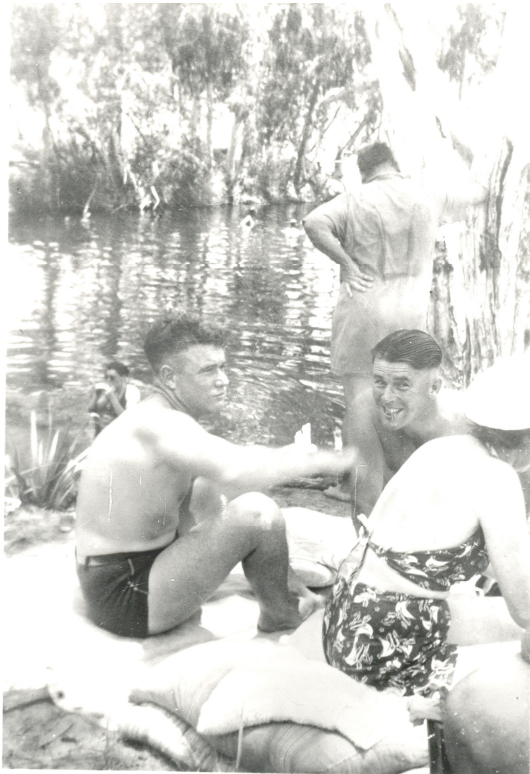




HERITAGE SERVICES INFORMATION SHEET 24

A HISTORY OF THE BLUEWATER AREA



Surveyors in the late nineteenth century described the land surrounding Bluewater Creek as inferior grazing country with poor sandy soil and covered with tea trees, wattle, bloodwood and ironback.

Despite the quality of the soil selectors took up land along the banks of Bluewater and Althaus Creeks. The Althaus family settled on land that extended from Althaus

Creek to Healy's Creek. John Althaus had been born in Germany and lived part of his early life in the Rockhampton area. He married Jane Pattison there in 1866. By the 1870s they had taken up their selection on Althaus Creek. John worked as a carrier, carting goods inland as far west as the Barcoo but they were also engaged in dairying. There were a number of other selectors in the area, including Hugh, David and John Morris who held extensive tracts of land on the northern banks of Bluewater Creek. A registered plan from the 1880s shows a house, outbuildings and stockyard on portion 406 at the mouth of Bluewater Creek, a property then held by Hugh Morris.

By 1919 the North Coast Line extended from Townsville to Ingham. Purono rail siding was situated just south of the Bluewater Creek. A water reserve was gazetted on the banks of Bluewater Creek in 1912. Part of the water reserve now forms the recreation and camping reserve on the northern banks of the creek.



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Local identity, Vincent (Bushy) Parker grew up at Purono rail siding. His mother, Edith was station mistress there from 1929.

During World War II service personnel were camped in the vicinity of Bluewater. The 29th Australian Infantry Brigade, 15th battalion was camped along Forestry Road. Their role was to resist any Japanese invasion of the region north of the Bohle River. From May 1942 considerable numbers of both Australian and American troops were temporarily camped in the area north of Townsville including a US military hospital located on the banks of the Black River. Bluewater

Creek was a popular destination for personnel to enjoy picnics and swimming.

Since World War II the area has become a popular residential area. In 1946 land was subdivided on Bluewater Beach and in the 1950s the first part of Toolakea Beach was subdivided. Also in the 1950s, a number of residential allotments were surveyed between the Bruce Highway and the railway line. In more recent years the area has grown considerably to become one of the thriving northern suburbs of Thuringowa.

Acknowledgements:

- Thuringowa Library local history file.

