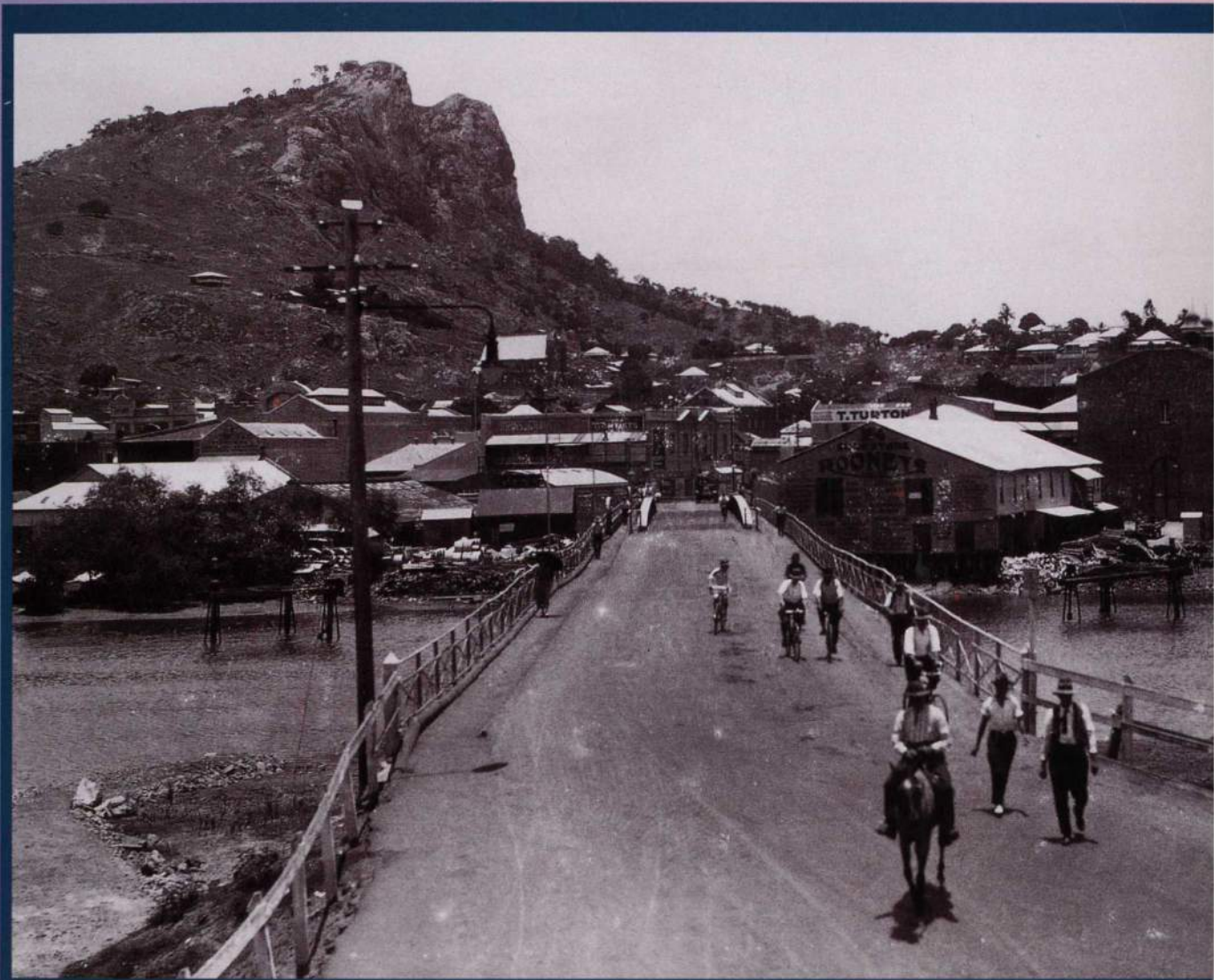


In the Shadow *of* Castle Hill



Margaret Heuschele

and the

William Ross State High School Year 10
Leading Learner Social Education Class

In the Shadow *of* Castle Hill



Townsville Library Service



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Margy and the William Ross High School Leading Learners would like to thank all the people and organisations who have helped us throughout the project.

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John Nicholson – Melbourne award-winning junior non-fiction author and illustrator.

David Heuschele – Artist.

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Foreword



FOREWORD FROM THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TOWNSVILLE

In the Shadow of Castle Hill is one of several significant projects that Townsville City Council has undertaken in the year 2000 to celebrate the new Millennium. This publication is a uniquely written and illustrated history of Townsville for primary school students. The desire to encourage children to take an active interest in our community's history is extremely important. A publication of this kind not only supports the school curriculum but will inspire young people to understand the significance of our past.

This project is distinctive as it presented a group of Townsville's young people from William Ross High School the opportunity to work with Council's Library staff and a professional author to produce this resource. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of these students in researching and writing this book. I would also like to thank the Aitkenvale Library's Young Persons Librarian, Margy Heuschele, for her foresight and initiative.

I am pleased to recommend *In the Shadow of Castle Hill* to everyone with an interest in Townsville's history.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

TONY MOONEY
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TOWNSVILLE

FOREWORD FROM WILLIAM ROSS STATE HIGH SCHOOL

The involvement of twelve, Year 10 William Ross State High School students in the writing of this book has proven to be a unique experience and a fantastic opportunity.

When Margy Heuschele first approached the school librarian about this millennium proposal, we had no idea about the challenges associated with writing a non-fiction book. However her initiative and drive convinced us that it could be done and we had the students prepared 'to have a go'. Throughout the project, Margy has been inspirational in her dedication and enthusiasm as editor of the publication.

The students have had to develop sophisticated research and communication skills. As well they have had the opportunity to learn about the history of Townsville 'first hand' through their access to local historical collections. It has been an experience they will not forget.

We hope you enjoy learning about Townsville through reading *In the Shadow of Castle Hill*.

MAIDE VAN KERKWYK AND CATHY SMITH



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Introduction



The idea for this book came about with children visiting the library to find information about Townsville history for projects they were doing at school. It was soon obvious that very little information existed for young people on this topic although excellent books have been written for adults. The concept that developed was to have a local high school class research and write the book with the help of school and Council Library staff. After discussion with staff from the William Ross High School and the Year 10 Leading Learners Social Education class it was decided that they would take on this project.

As junior non-fiction is a specialised genre John Nicholson, an award winning author and illustrator of junior non-fiction from Melbourne, was invited to workshop with the young people for two days. John was a tremendous help and inspiration to the class, giving us many suggestions and ideas and he was very impressed with the work the class had produced.

After the Leading Learners had completed a great deal of research I checked details, found extra information, gathered the photographs and compiled the book.

It is worth emphasising at this point that this book is a history of Townsville for primary school children, therefore it can not possibly be a comprehensive history. Topics were chosen to give an overall picture of Townsville history and to whet the appetite of the younger generation. To make this possible we combined dates and facts with interesting stories and trivia.

In researching this book the inconsistency of the facts that have been presented over time was amazing; for example, the dates when people were born and died, the dates of particular events and specific details of incidents. Where possible this information was clarified with other sources and all attempts made to present accurate details.

MARGY HEUSCHELE
Young Peoples Librarian
Townsville Library Service
TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Spirit of the Land



Very little is recorded about the Aboriginal people who lived in the region now known as Townsville. It seems that no Aboriginal group lived permanently in the Townsville district, probably because of the river tributaries and low lying nature of the area. Rather, the neighbouring tribes would travel through the area from one place to another.

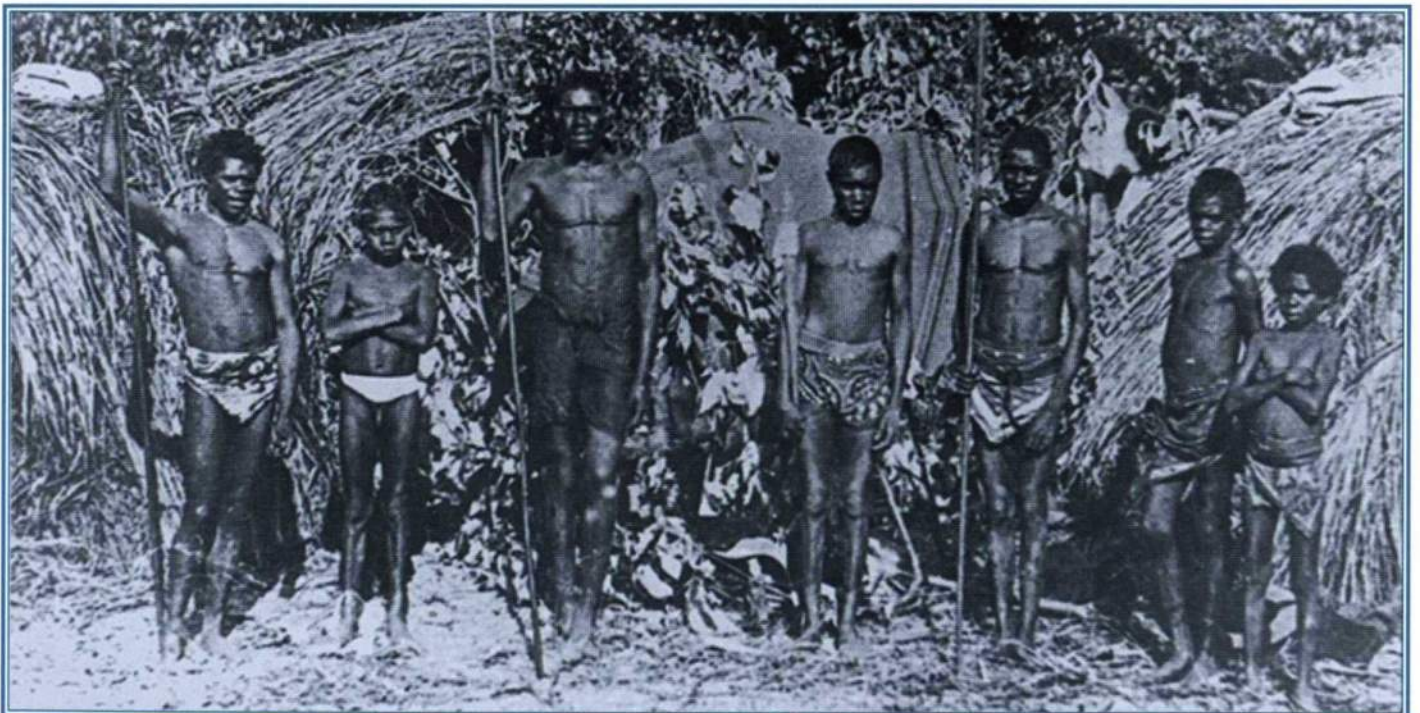
The Wulgurukaba people, as well as living on Palm and Magnetic Island, may also have lived in an area around Cape Cleveland. South west to Charters Towers, the Warunga people lived around the head waters of the Burdekin River. The Warakamai people lived to the north in an area around Halifax Bay. The Bindal, Juru and Nawagi group also lived in or near the Townsville region.

In 1963 an Aboriginal reserve was built at Aitkenvale. The reserve was used for

many things but its initial use was as a hostel for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people visiting Townsville for hospital treatment. It also provided accommodation for the families of those who were in hospital and was used as a camping ground for visitors to Townsville for sporting or cultural activities.



Corroboree, Rowes Bay, circa 1881.



Aboriginal Camp, Rowes Bay, circa 1870.

Magnetic Dreaming



*Ageless you have turned many a page
In book of time, while we engage
A few short years, then life is done
But you eternally are young
Holding us in your spell
Dream Magnetic of ages past
Dream, but tell us your dreams at last*

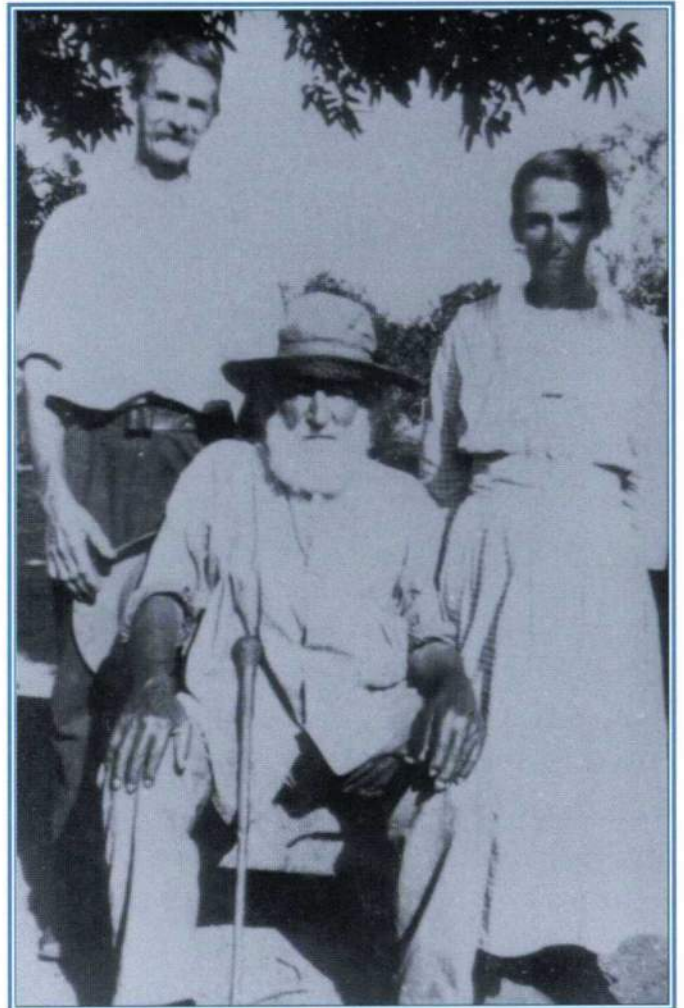
– A verse from a poem
by Jessie Macqueen

Captain James Cook named Magnetical Island on Wednesday, 6 June 1770. The island received its name because Cook believed that the rocky outcrops on the island attracted his compass and affected his bearings.

In recognition of Cook being the first European to discover Magnetic Island the highest peak, Mount Cook, was named after him. Another smaller peak on the island was named Mount Endeavour after Cook's ship, the *Endeavour*.

White settlers are recorded as far back as 1864 however none of them had been permanent until Henry Butler and his family came in 1877. The Butler family settled in Picnic Bay, where Henry built a house made of coral and limestone. Henry Butler had originally planned to move to Cardwell (a town north of Townsville) where his brother was living at the time but he was so fascinated by Magnetic Island's beauty that he decided to start up a home there instead.

Occasionally the Butlers had unexpected visitors from foreign places – escaped convicts from New Caledonia and other penal settlements in the Pacific.



Henry Butler is the gentleman sitting down.

Source: James Cook University

The unfortunate thing about the visitors was that none of them could speak a word of English. They arrived on Magnetic Island in dinghies or anything that would float and became stranded in either Rocky or

Townsville Firsts

In 1900, a De Dion, brought from the United States was the first motor-car to use the Townsville streets.

Magnetic Dreaming *(Continued)*

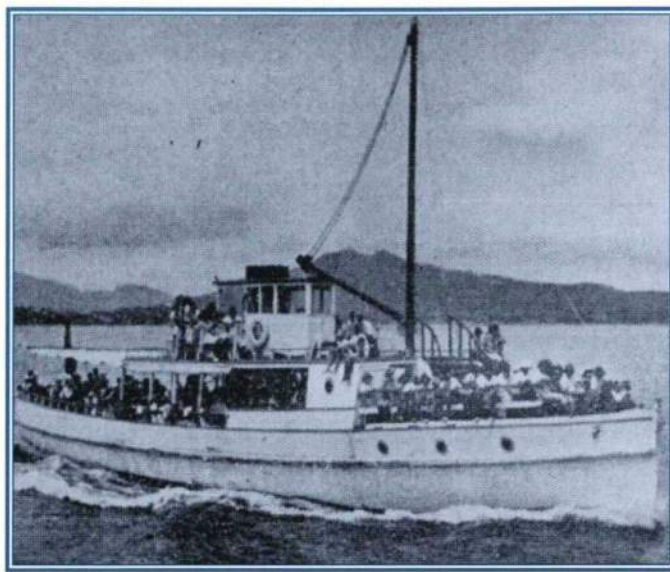


Butlers' Huts, circa 1900.

Nelly Bay. Once they arrived on Magnetic Island they would see the smoke from the Butlers' chimney and follow it, hoping to find food and shelter. Henry would take the escapees back to the mainland and let them go free. Some of them were caught, yet others were successful in their bid for freedom.

The Butler family was involved with the quarantine station which was established at West Point in 1886. It closed in 1915 when the station was moved to Pallarenda.

In 1899 the Butler family sold their interest in a boarding house that they owned to Robert Hayles. Hayles was born in England in 1843 and came to Australia when he was 18. When he first saw Magnetic Island he thought it had potential so he built a boat to take visitors to and from the Picnic Bay Hotel and dance hall which he had built on the



Magnetic Island Ferry, 1930.

island. This then inspired the birth of the ferry service to the island.

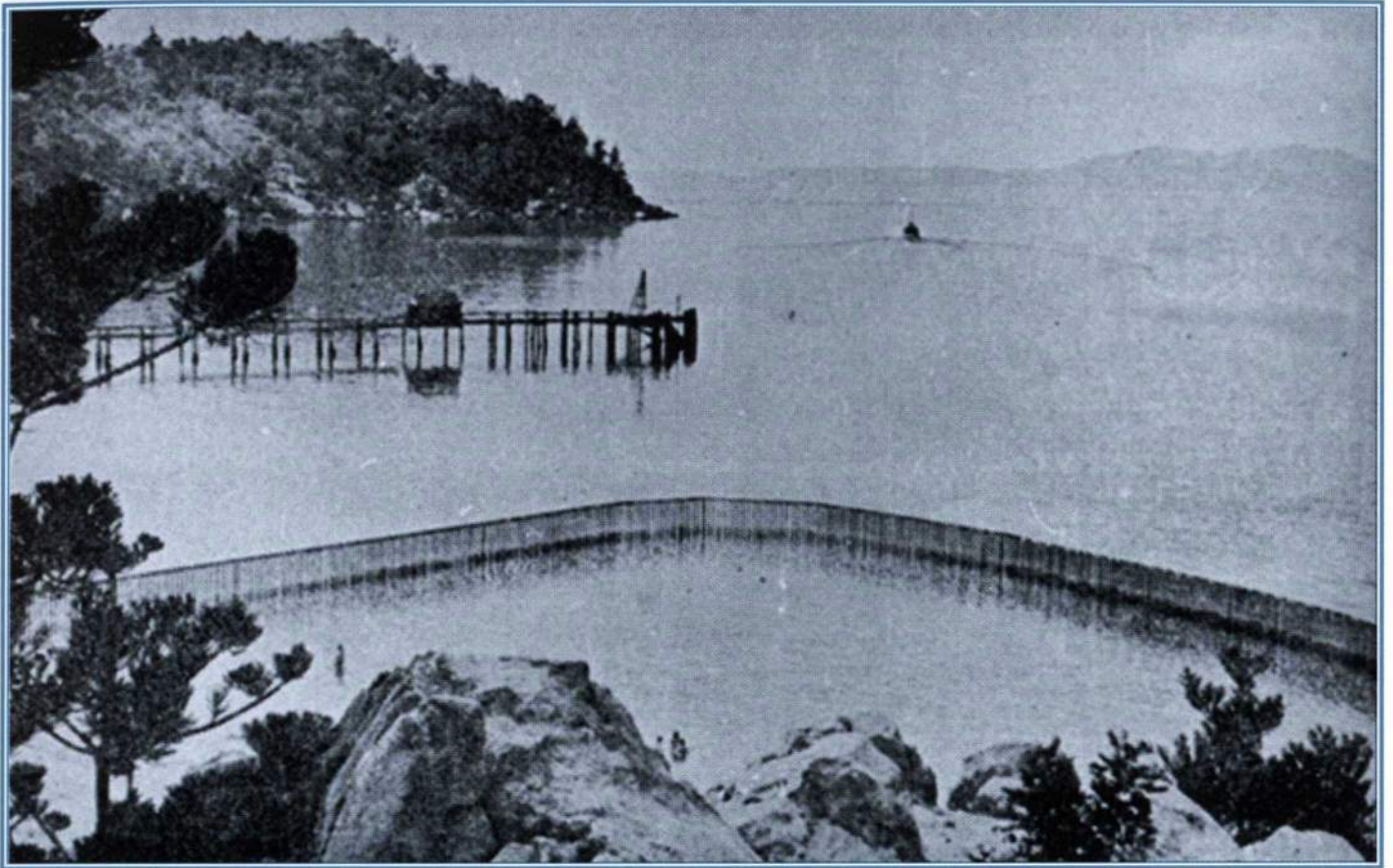
Other early settlers included the Wellbeloved Family and the Bright Family. After emigrating from South Africa the Wellbeloved family tried growing fruit and vegetables on Magnetic Island. This unfortunately was unsuccessful but they did however, create history by having the first white baby born on the island. The baby was named Nita Wellbeloved and soon after Nita was born the family moved to Townsville.

The Bright family consisted of William Bright, his wife Mary and daughter Fanny.

Did You Know?



Greg Norman rates the 5th hole at the Magnetic Island Golf Course as one of the most difficult he has played.

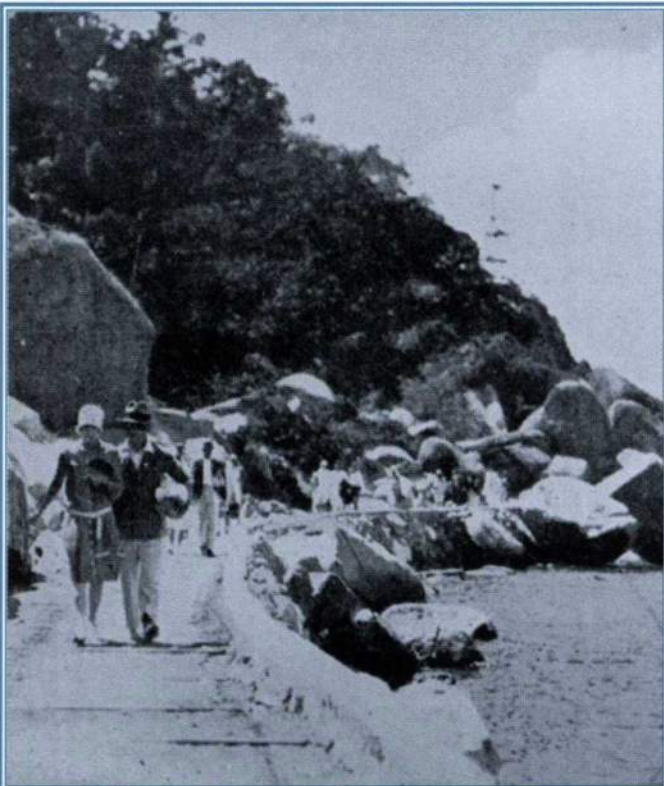


Picnic Bay Baths, 1951.

They arrived on Magnetic Island around 1880 after a six month voyage from England. The family took up farming

pineapples, mangoes and pawpaws at Nellie Bay. They were also well known for their mango and plum wines.

In 1886 a surveyor by the name of J.G O'Connell named each of the Magnetic Island bays after the Pearce family – Nellie, Geoffrey, Alma, Arthur and Florence, who were then living in Townsville. It has also been thought that Nelly Bay may have been named after Nell Butler. Radical Bay was named after a cutter wrecked in the bay in 1918.



Arcadia Bay Jetty, 1930.

Did You Know?



In 1871 a man was fined for shooting at a crocodile in Stokes Street. Although he missed he was fined a total of 2 pounds with costs.

Townsville or Blackstown?

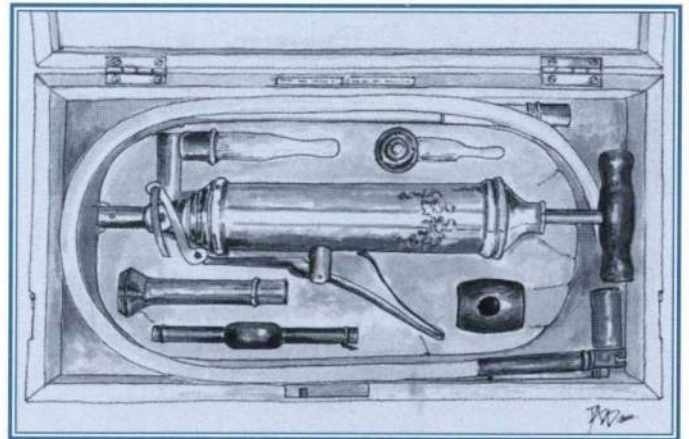
Would you prefer to live in Blackstown or Townsville? It could have been possible you know as the two men mainly responsible for the city's early development were John Melton Black and Captain Robert Towns and the town could have been named after either.

In 1864 Black was down on his luck. He had built the Theatre Royal in Melbourne however it was not making any money and the venture failed. He travelled to Sydney and visited the office of Captain Robert Towns who was something of a financial whiz. What a shock he got when he walked into the office. Captain Towns was in the throes of a fit! The story goes that John Black quickly ran to the chemist, bought a stomach pump, used it on Towns and saved his life. It was later found that Towns had eaten some figs which had been poisoned with arsenic. This was the birth of a long lasting partnership.

In 1864 Black set forth to North Queensland to manage Towns' station interests and to organise new properties. While he was stationed at Woodstock Black learned that they could make more money from selling the tallow – the fat used for making candles and soap, and the hide taken from the beast rather than the meat itself, as prices were very low for cattle. To do this Black needed to build a boiling down works to treat the carcasses. At that time Bowen was the nearest northern port, a long and rough journey from Woodstock. Also, the townspeople in Bowen thought the smell from the boiling works would make life unpleasant and they opposed the

idea. Although Black was unhappy about their reaction, he was not put off and decided to investigate the more convenient location of Cleveland Bay as a possible site.

In April 1864 Andrew Ball, the manager of Woodstock station, and Mark Reid were sent by Black to find a suitable shipping and boiling down works site on Cleveland Bay. After reporting back that Cleveland Bay was a suitable location a



A stomach pump.

further expedition with sheep and stores was arranged in October 1864. Ball named the area Castletown. Black followed soon after to start construction.

Townsville Firsts

The first Townsville library was opened in 1866 at the School of Arts. Three hundred books and magazines were donated by townspeople.

Townsville also had the first free public library in Queensland.

Black planned to create a township and a port. The problem was that the Government needed to approve the plan. This was unlikely as there was already a port at Bowen and one being developed at Cardwell. However Black, with the financial support and influence of Towns, decided to go ahead without the knowledge of outsiders and permission of the Government even though the Government could always take back the land for its own use. The two men hoped that when it was complete the Government would not refuse permission and instead reward their initiative by granting them the land they had built on and improved. A daring idea indeed!!

In order to start Towns and Black needed to get a grant of land at the proposed site. As it was difficult to get a land grant from the Government, they leased the land under the Coffee and Sugar Cultivation Act which was designed to encourage the cultivation of these two products. When news was received that a Government official was coming to inspect the project Black quickly arranged for two rows of coffee to be planted on Ross Island. Coffee and sugar were planted in the outlying area of Hermit Park. However the supply of coffee seeds had not arrived so Black used the only available beans which were roasted coffee beans. Although he knew they wouldn't grow Black planted them anyway. The official was so impressed by the enthusiasm displayed that he gave a favourable report. As a result the Government declared it a port of entry.

On 31 July 1865 the first land sales were held in Bowen, where the Government offices were located. Unfortunately the Government refused to give Towns and Black the free land they had hoped to receive. If they wanted to keep any land

they had to pay improved land value price like everybody else and it was they who had done the improving! With some negotiation it was agreed that five portions of land would be reserved for them and three wharfage allotments were acquired by private treaty from the Government. Black also bought six unimproved allotments. Although their scheme to obtain free land was not successful they did succeed in establishing a port and boiling down works.



One of the first houses in Townsville.

By August 1866 Townsville was proclaimed a municipality and renamed. A Town Council was elected with John Black as the first mayor and a newspaper, two banks, a hospital, a School of Arts, a race club, a number of hotels, a mail steamer service, a Court of Petty Sessions and other governmental departments were established.

Did You Know?



Near the intersection of Flinders Street, Morris Street and Ingham Road, there used to be a toll gate. People riding on a horse and buggy from Hermit Park to West End had to pay a fee to get through.

Heroes and Hooligans



ROBERT TOWNS



Robert Towns, 1913.

The man after whom Townsville was named was Captain Robert Towns. He was born in Long Horsley, Northumberland, England on 10 November 1794. He was a sailor and master mariner. In 1827, when he was 33, he made his first trip to Australia in command of a vessel named the *Brothers* and subsequently made his fortune bringing migrants to Australia. In 1833 he married Sophia Wentworth, sister of William Charles Wentworth. By 1842 he had had enough of sea life and established the firm of R. Towns, a mercantile and shipping agency in Sydney. He was an outstanding businessman and became a very important man in the early years of

Sydney. In 1853 he was appointed Chairman of Directors of the Bank of New South Wales. Towns was appointed a Member of the first Legislative Council of New South Wales in 1856. Towns was also involved with the transportation of South Sea Islanders, known as Kanakas, to be used as a cheap labour force. They were used on Towns' cotton plantations and some were also used in the building of Townsville itself.

Robert Towns bought many pastoral properties in North Queensland and owned land from the lower Burdekin through to the Gulf. Together with his partner, John Melton Black, he worked on the ambitious scheme to establish a port and township in the Cleveland Bay area. Although Towns often complained about the amount of money being spent he provided the finance to ensure the steady flow of building materials and machinery. He also influenced the Queensland Government to support the venture. Towns paid his first and only visit to Townsville in 1866. One of the reasons for his visit was to celebrate the opening of the Criterion Hotel. Sir Robert

Townsville Firsts

The first house, other than slab huts, erected in Townsville was for John Melton Black on Melton Hill. It was a four room cottage surrounded by verandahs with a detached kitchen.

Towns died of a stroke on 11 April 1873 at 'Cranbrook', his home in Sydney.

JOHN MELTON BLACK



John Melton Black, 1866.

Townsville would not be the 'Capital of North Queensland' if it were not for the energy, drive and enthusiasm of an extraordinary individual, John Melton Black.

Black was born in Scotland in 1830 and came to Australia as a young man in 1852. He made some money by developing a carrying service from Melbourne and Geelong to the Goldfields. After the failure of the Theatre Royal in Melbourne he met Towns in Sydney and became the station manager for Towns & Co's stations in North Queensland. Always a businessman it was Black's idea to build a port in Cleveland Bay and develop a township.

Due to ongoing problems his partnership with Towns finished in April

1867. During that same year Black sailed from Townsville aboard the *Boomerang* to Sydney. He never returned. Black sold his share of the business to Towns, went back to England and had a family of five children. The citizens of Townsville were so appreciative of what Black had achieved that they sent him a gold cup made from Cape River gold. Back in England he founded the Bell Punching and Printing Company. He died in London in 1919 at the age of 89.

JAMES MORRILL

James Morrill, born 20 May 1824, was one of fourteen crew on board the *Peruvian* on its way to China from Sydney when it hit a shoal near Minerva Reef in the Coral Sea in 1846. Twenty-one crew and passengers survived the sinking of the ship and were adrift for forty-four days aboard a raft built from the wreckage. During this time fourteen of them perished. Although seven people reached the shore at Cleveland Bay, two more died soon after and one paddled off in a native canoe never to be seen again. The four remaining survivors were the ship's Captain and his wife, Wilson, the ship's boy, and James Morrill. The survivors were found and cared for by a tribe of Aborigines. Unfortunately, although they were well looked after by the Aborigines the three survivors other than Morrill died within the next three years.

Did You Know?



Until 1914 the suburb of Belgian Gardens was known as German Gardens.



James Morrill, circa 1865.

Before long, Morrill was accepted as part of the tribe and stayed with the Aborigines for seventeen years learning their language and way of life. Although Morrill sighted ships and heard of crews being seen ashore he was unable to make contact. One day in 1863 Morrill was given a report of some white men to the south. After finding where they were located, Morrill washed himself to try to look as white as possible and decided to approach the men. Struggling to remember English words that he had not used for so many years he eventually made himself understood.

After spending some time with the settlers he returned to his tribe to explain that he was going to live with his own

people again. The tribe did not want Morrill to leave but when they realised he was determined to go they asked him to talk to the white people and try to find a solution to the violence against the Aboriginal tribes.

Morrill married Eliza Ann Ross on 20 September 1864. In October 1864 Morrill worked with the Government Marine Surveyor, Captain Heath, as an Aboriginal interpreter. In March 1865 Morrill was sent to Cleveland Bay (now Townsville) as the Customs Overseer. What an amazing twist of fate to be working in the same area where only two years earlier he had hunted with his Aboriginal tribe. Morrill died on 30 October 1865 and is buried in the Bowen cemetery.

Townsville Firsts

James Morrill bought the first allotment sold at the first land sale for Townsville. The sale was held in Bowen on 31 July 1865.

Did You Know?



The Townsville suburbs of Hermit Park, Hyde Park, Pimlico, Mundingburra, Aitkenvale, West End, Garbutt, Belgian Gardens, Oonoonba and Stuart were all once included in Thuringowa and were transferred to Townsville between 1918 and 1936.

SIR JAMES BURNS

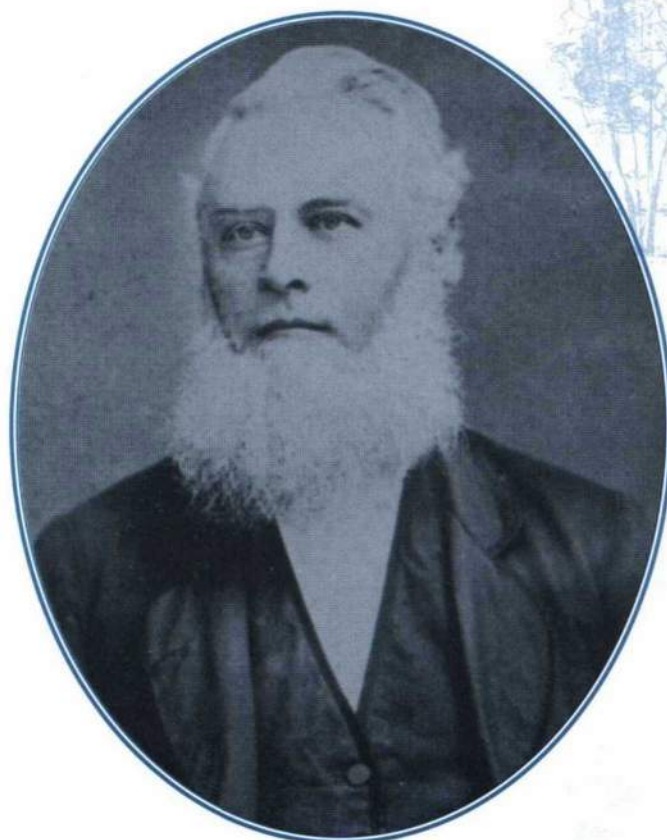


Sir/Col James Burns, 1874.

James Burns was born at Polmont, Scotland on the 10 February 1846. In 1862 at the age of 16 James and his older brother migrated to Brisbane. After making large profits at the Gympie Goldrush he returned to Scotland in 1870 for a short period.

James returned to Queensland and bought land in Townsville in 1873 where he built a general store in Flinders Street supplying all the goldfields in North Queensland. Together with Robert Philp, admitted as a partner in 1875, the business Burns, Philp and Co. continued to grow and expand into a large commercial and shipping enterprise. Eventually branches were established across Australia and world wide. Burns died of cancer in 1923 at his home 'Gowan Brae' in Parramatta, Sydney.

THOMAS AITKEN



Thomas Aitken.

Thomas Aitken was born in Scotland in 1817 and arrived in Brisbane in 1835. After being in Australia for several years he returned to Scotland in 1851 to marry Margaret Storey. The couple returned to Australia where they had a dairy farm near Brisbane. They ventured to Townsville in 1867 and took up 3 500 acres of land on the Ross River. Their property was called the Aitkenvale Estate. Later, during the land boom, all but thirty acres of the estate were sold and subdivided. This area then became known as the suburb of Aitkenvale.

Thomas and Margaret had five daughters and one son. Margaret died in March 1897 at the age of 73 and Thomas died later that same year.

CATHERINE ROBINSON



Mrs Robinson, 1913.

Catherine Robinson, born in County Armagh on 23 November 1835, came to Queensland at the age of 24. In 1865 after spending two years in Brisbane Catherine travelled to Townsville aboard the schooner *Policeman* where she was employed as a barmaid at the opening of the first Criterion Hotel. She was one of the first white women in the city at that time.

Catherine went on a picnic with Robert Towns and some other people to Magnetic Island during Towns' only visit to Townsville. After drawing straws Catherine had the privilege of being the first white woman to set foot on the Island.

Catherine met and married her husband, Heinrich Fredrich Rubinstein (later known as Robinson) in Townsville. They tried to grow grapevines at Kissing Point but were unsuccessful. After success in dairying at German Gardens they moved to Mt St John to continue dairying supplying Townsville with milk. Catherine would ride with a bucket of milk on each side of her saddle until they bought a delivery cart.

With only a brief absence Catherine lived in Townsville for 70 years. She died at the age of 95.

Did You Know?



On 23 June 1890 Gladys Van Tassel made a balloon ascent at Acacia Vale Gardens, near where the Villa Vincent Home is located. Gladys made the ascent on a trapeze bar attached under the balloon. When she was at considerable height she cut off from the balloon and came down with the assistance of a parachute.

Did You Know?



The story goes that Gladys Moncrieff, a famous soprano singer who attended school in Townsville, once climbed a ladder to the roof of the School of Arts building to hear Dame Nellie Melba sing inside only to be trapped when someone removed the ladder.

ELIZABETH KENNY



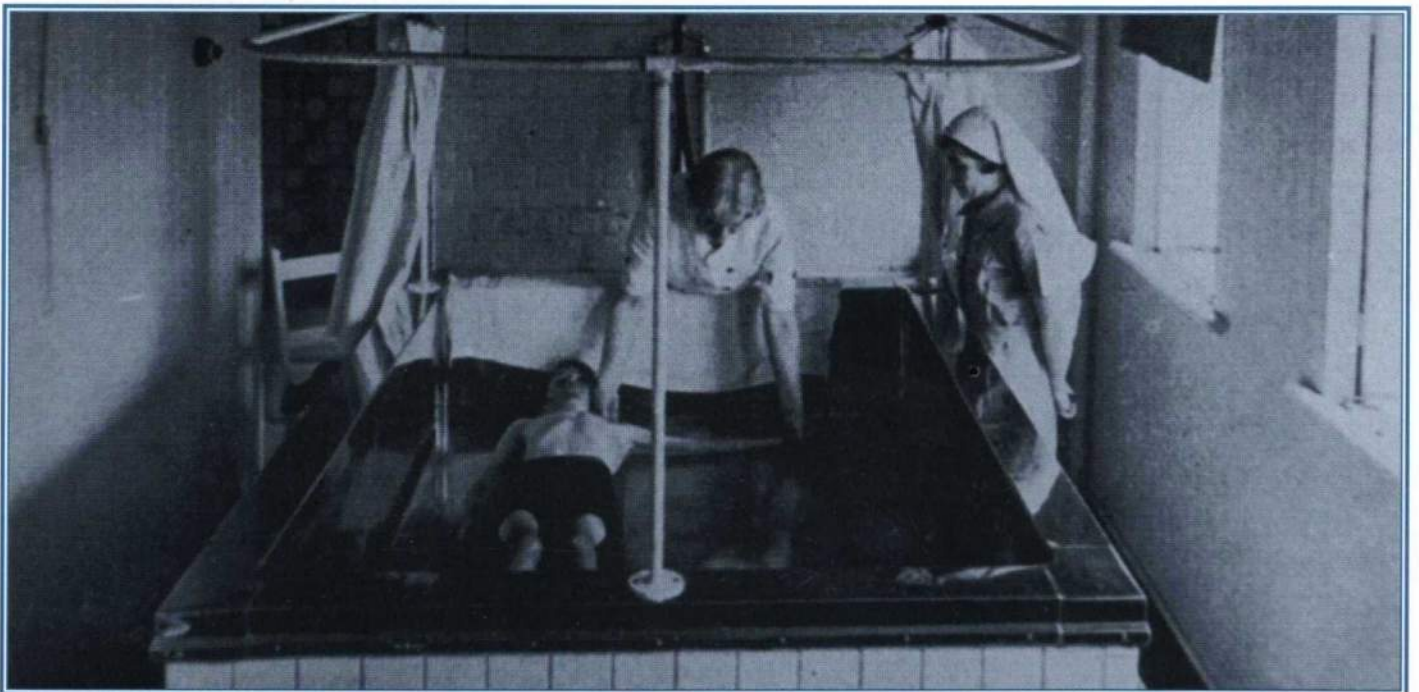
Sr Elizabeth Kenny.

Source: Royal College of Nursing, Australia

In 1886, Elizabeth Kenny was born at Warialda, New South Wales. She graduated

as a nurse in 1911. While working as a nurse in outback Queensland she saw her first case of polio, a dreadful disease which paralysed children. To help patients recover Kenny developed her own method of treatment. It involved packing warm blankets around the arms and legs and massaging the affected limbs. Kenny opened her first clinic in Townsville during the polio epidemic of 1933. During this time she treated and cured many patients. She also taught other nurses her method of treatment. Although Kenny was considered a fraud by doctors because her treatment was so different to the method used at that time she had support from the Queensland Government who opened a Kenny Clinic in Brisbane in 1934. Sister Kenny took her specialised treatment overseas where she was given much greater recognition of her achievements. Clinics were opened all over Britain, USA, Canada and Russia.

Kenny died in Toowoomba, Queensland in 1952 after suffering from Parkinson's Disease.



Sr Kenny working in the Townsville clinic.

Source: Royal College of Nursing, Australia

CUSTOMS HOUSE

The Customs House is one of five customs buildings in Queensland built before the Federation of Australia. Two architects from New South Wales, John Smith Murdoch, the Chief Government Designer, and George Payne, designed the building.

Plans for the Customs House were completed and approved on 3 January 1900. The Customs House was built by a Brisbane construction company, Crawford and Cameron. The building was made of brick and faced with local granite. To try to keep white ants out the use of wood was kept to a minimum. During the construction there were many arguments between the Department of Public Works Inspector, Mr Hunt and the site overseer, Mr Cameron. Mr Hunt argued that the granite work was poor and the overall standard of work was unsatisfactory. Although the disagreements caused a work stoppage on the 25 October 1900 the building was finally finished in 1902.

The Customs House is built in Federation style with some modifications such as the extremely high ceilings to suit the North Queensland climate. When so much thought went into making the building suitable for this climate it seems strange that fireplaces were included in some of the offices! It is hard to imagine that they were ever used here in the tropics.



Customs House.

Underneath the Customs House is a maze of passageways and cellars known as 'the Dungeon'. It looks as if this would be a great place to hold prisoners but it was simply used as a storage area. It was also an ideal air raid shelter during World War II. A special tunnel was dug from the back of the dungeon through to Wickham Street, in case the main entrance was destroyed. Some say that another

Townsville Firsts

Townsville's first hotel, the Criterion was built in 1864. The original building was an unlicensed log hut. Food was available for the bachelor labourers and drinks sold for 1 shilling – about ten cents. It was owned by William Ross.

underground emergency tunnel existed to the Queen's Hotel.

Other original features that still exist are the original brass gaslights on the polished granite columns that stand on either side of the staircase to the first floor. During Cyclone Leonta two chimneys and some of the roof tiles were damaged. Although the roof was repaired there was a problem with the roof leaking. The tiles were eventually replaced with an iron roof in 1910. The lookout on top was used to view the harbour so that the officials would know when a ship had come into the port.

The Second World War saw some changes to the Customs House. The Department of Defence extended the building and modified some of the interior. A two-storey timber-framed extension was put onto the rear so that the building could cope with the extra people and activities going on. A mezzanine floor was constructed in the long room and other spaces were converted into offices.

ST JAMES CATHEDRAL

On 1 October 1871, St James Church was opened and dedicated on the site of the present Cathedral. Bishop Stanton laid the foundation stone of the present Cathedral of St James on 21 June 1887. The dedication service was held on the same day as Queen Victoria's Jubilee. It was not until 1960 that the cathedral was formally acknowledged as being complete – an extraordinary length of time of over seventy years.

The Cathedral was designed and built by Arthur Blackett of Sydney. St James has the largest pipe organ in North Queensland. The organ was built in 1884 by the English firm of Brindly and Foster



St James Cathedral, 1906.

and was donated to the congregation by Miss M E Holland. The cathedral was partially destroyed by Cyclone Leonta in 1903.

BUCHANAN'S HOTEL

Buchanan's Hotel was owned by David Buchanan, a hotel keeper in Townsville for twenty-seven years. Buchanan's was first built in 1902. It had red brick walls and every up-to-date feature possible. The hotel, originally called the Prince Of Wales, was changed to Buchanan's Hotel after a fire in 1902. The architecture of the hotel was unique as the verandahs were all surrounded by some of Australia's finest iron lace. The wrought iron incorporated panels of coloured glass. The clientele of this facility could summon the staff with electrically-powered bells. Some of

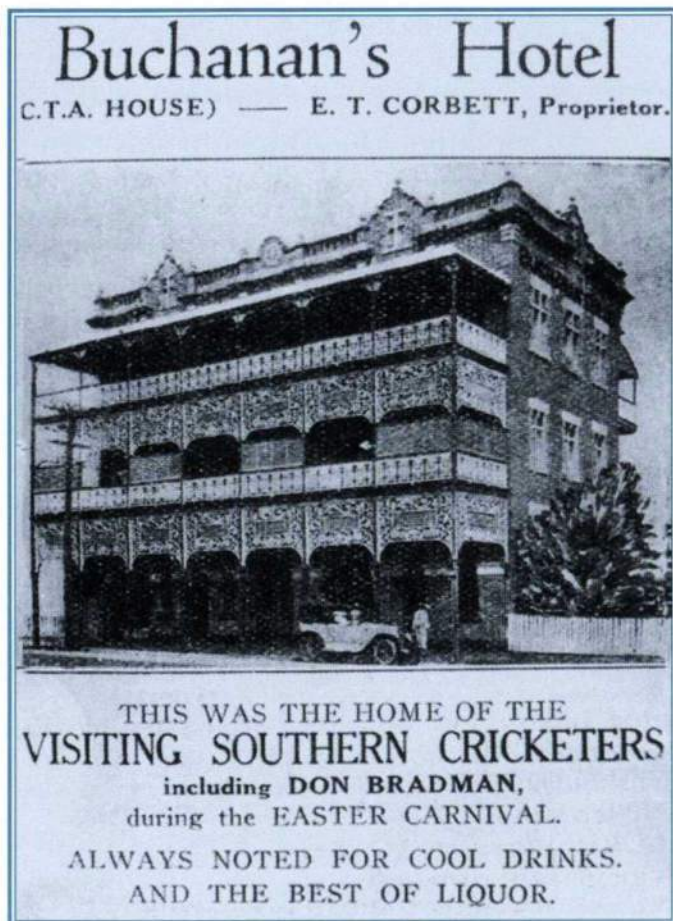
Did You Know?



The Theatre Royal was opened on 19 August 1869. The first concert ever held in the Theatre was by the Carandini Company. The cost for a box seat was only 40 cents, stalls 30 cents and a pit seat was a mere 10 cents

Timber and Termites *(continued)*

Buchanan's guests were Sir Donald Bradman and Lyndon B. Johnson – a future American President. In 1982 Buchanan's was burnt down and then demolished. The hotel has been featured on an Australian stamp.



An advertisement for Buchanan's Hotel circa 1930-35.

QUEEN'S HOTEL

From 1873 to 1914 the Queen's Hotel was the only hotel in Townsville to maintain the high standards of a 'Grand Hotel' which is like a five star hotel today. The owner of this grand hotel, James Evans, built the Queen's in 1873. The date 1864 shown on the facade of the building has been a trap for many people

researching the history of Townsville. It was originally a two storeyed wooden building with wide verandahs.

In 1879 Evans sold the Queen's to Henry 'Harry' Boulton who had an excellent reputation as the landlord of the 'Mining Exchange' in Charters Towers. When Boulton took over the Queen's it was described as having twenty bedrooms and three sitting rooms. While the Queen's gave visitors magnificent views the surroundings were less attractive as the road was unformed and the beach was covered with creepers. Nevertheless it was a favoured retreat for visiting Governors, politicians and other dignitaries visiting Townsville.

Boulton ensured that his hotel was always up-to-date with every convenience possible. In 1882 the Queen's was the second building in Townsville to have reticulated water. In 1883 the Queen's was one of the first buildings to be connected to the town's gas supply, though it was only used for lighting not cooking.

Townsville Firsts

Townsville's first gaol was built in 1878 in North Ward, right where the students today attend Central State School. The school's administration block was once used as a gaolers' quarters. Original walls and cells can still be seen in the school playground.



Queen's Hotel, circa 1890.



Inside Queen's Hotel, 1908.



Queen's Hotel, 1930.

In 1885 Boulton sold the Queen's to James Cran. The Crans converted the Wickham Street wing of the building, originally single storey, to two storey, adding twenty-one new rooms and expanding the number of available beds to sixty-five. It was most unfortunate when Cran, in the prime of his life, disappeared

on a boating trip in Cleveland Bay. Accompanied by an insurance representative named Pitt, he set out in March 1891 in the *Lady Elvin* to visit Rattlesnake Island. They never returned.

The service at the Queen's was superb, provided by a small army of uniformed cooks, kitchen maids, waiters and

waitresses, chambermaids and porters. In 1899 the Queen's was sold to John Tyack who, in 1901, decided to replace the old building with new red brick walls. It was a Federation style building with influence from the Moghul architecture of India. Today the building is occupied by the Channel Ten television studios.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

The church of the Sacred Heart was built when the existing Catholic Church in Townsville, St. Joseph's, situated in North Ward on the Strand collapsed when undermined by floodwater in January 1892.

Parish Priest, Father Walsh and his parishioners decided that the growing town needed a bigger church more centrally located. Donations for this building came from all denominations in Townsville and the surrounding area.

Reid, Smart & Tappin, a Victorian architect firm, designed the church. They chose a gothic design. The furnishings were by Mr Dalton of Sydney. The Right Rev. Dr. Higgins, Bishop of Rockhampton, laid the Foundation Stone in October 1900. The same Bishop performed the blessing and opening of the new Church two years later.

Leonta, a cyclone that caused havoc in Townsville during March 1903, damaged the new Sacred Heart Church. The roof blew off and some internal damage occurred.



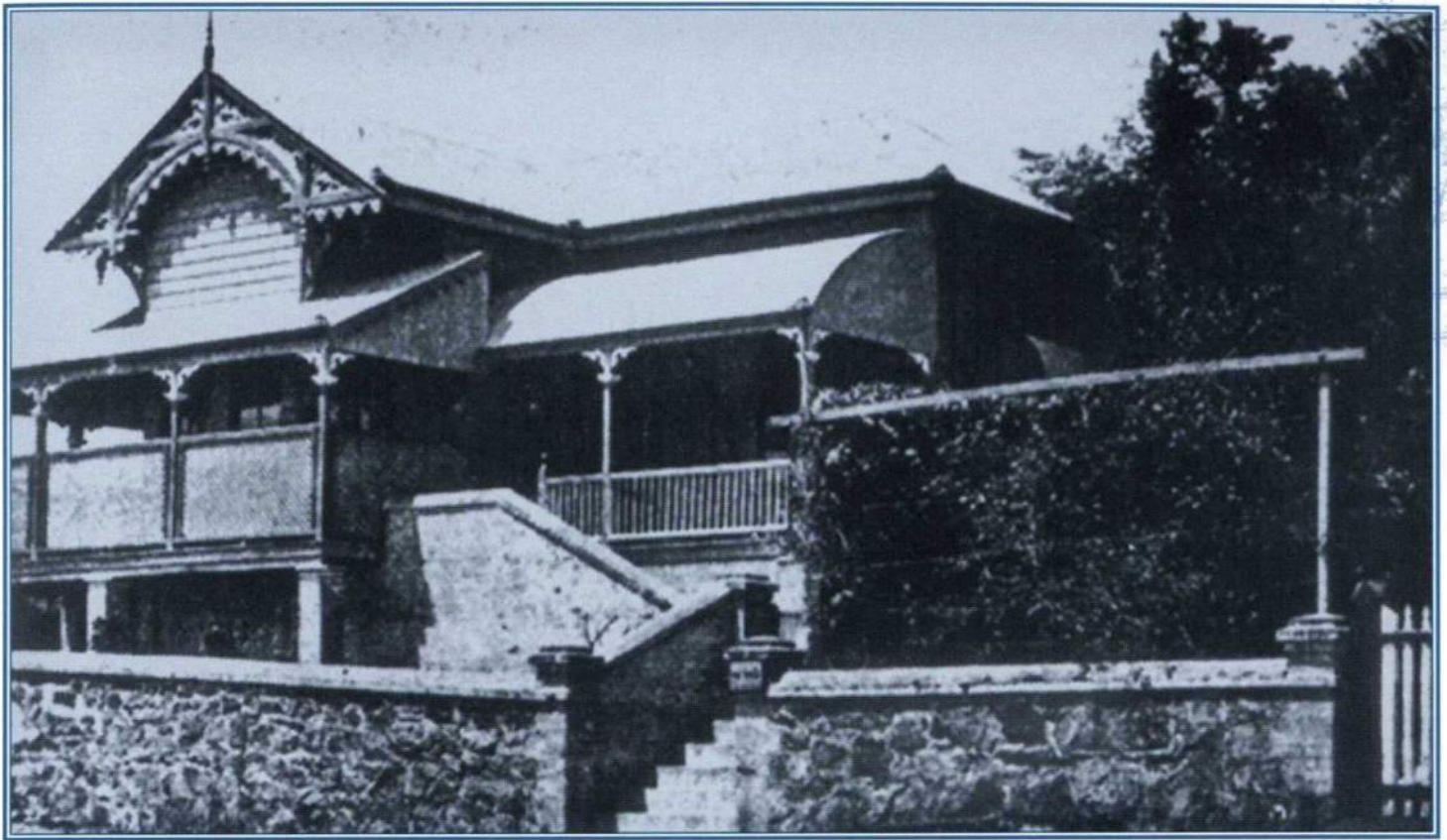
Sacred Heart Cathedral.



St Joseph's Catholic Church, The Strand, circa 1885.

The marble altar at the front of the church is a memorial to Fr. Walsh who died in February 1908. His body is in a special vault built inside the Cathedral.

The Sacred Heart Church became the Sacred Heart Cathedral in 1930 when Townsville separated from the Rockhampton Diocese and the Diocese of Townsville was formed.



The Rocks, circa 1888.

Source: Jennie Ginger and Joe Sproats

THE ROCKS

The Rocks was given its name as it was located on the rocky outcrop of Melton Hill known as The Rocks. This outcrop originally extended into the sea from Melton Hill and divided the Strand into two sections. As this headland was preventing a roadway being built along the beachfront and rock was needed for the western breakwater of the man-made harbour, the outcrop was quarried and used to make the breakwater. This allowed the road now known as The Strand to be built from Kissing Point to Ross Creek.

The Rocks was built as a banker's residence in 1888 for the first manager of the only bank ever formed in North Queensland. In 1909 it then became a famous private hospital and was advertised as being open for business on 30 October. The wife of Dr Ernest Humphrey turned the

hospital into an upmarket guesthouse during the 1930s.

The house became a hospital again during World War II when it was occupied by the American Army. A bomb shelter built during the war still exists at the back of the house. After the war The Rocks became a budget guesthouse.

The present owners bought the building when it was in a state of disrepair. Extensive restoration has returned The Rocks to its former glory. Today the billiards room is named after George Gray, a previous owner of the house during the 1950s. In 1912, George was a World Billiards Champion at the age of 19.

CURRAJONG

Currajong was built in 1888 as the residence for the manager of the Australian

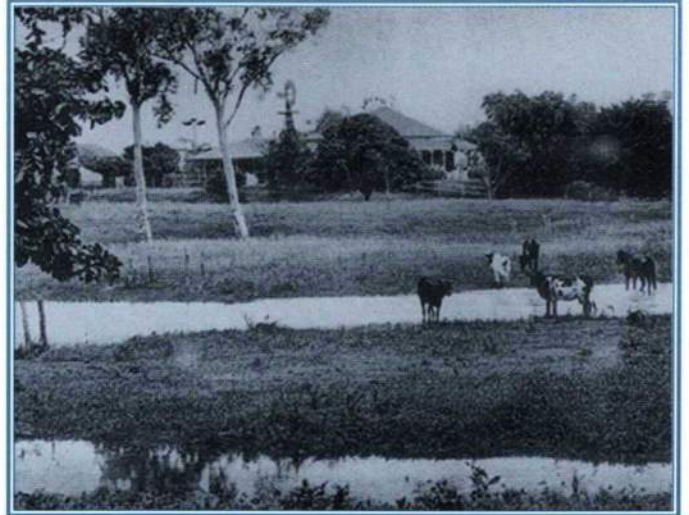


Currajong.

Joint Stock Bank, Mr Alfred P. MacKenzie. It was built on the site where the Mater Hospital is now located on Fulham Road. Currajong is typical of the timber houses built for the tropical climate, using features such as wide verandahs to help keep the house cool.

Mr Edward Hunt purchased the house in 1890 and named it Currajong after a large currajong tree which was a feature of the local area. From 1942 Currajong was used as a RAAF medical receiving station during World War II. In 1952 it was purchased by the Redemptorist Fathers then passed on to the Sisters of Mercy in 1955 who began to build the Mater Hospital during the 1960s.

When extensions were proposed to the hospital in 1978 Currajong was scheduled to be demolished. Recognising the historical significance of this home the Townsville National Trust Branch, with the consent of the Sisters of Mercy and the help of Townsville City Council, relocated Currajong to the Heritage Centre in Castling Street, West End.

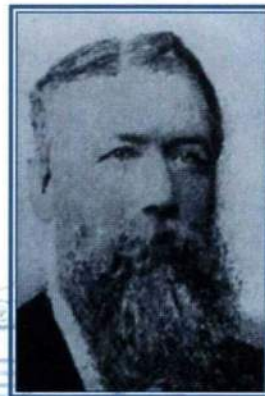


Rosebank, circa 1900.

ROSEBANK

The first owner of this beautiful home was Andrew Ball. In the first expedition sent by John Melton Black, Ball located Ross Creek as a suitable site for the port and boiling down works. Originally set on twenty acres Rosebank was built in 1886. The verandah was decorated with a cross pattern balustrade which was a common feature at the time. Rosebank is described as a villa residence. These country homesteads tried to be like the country villas of England and were commonly set in parklike surroundings. Estate owners

in the western suburbs were able to establish magnificent gardens due to fertile soil and a good water supply. Rosebank is located near Mindham Park, off Ball's Lane, in the suburb of Mysterton.



Andrew Ball, 1870.



LEFT:
The Union Bank
Building, circa 1891.

BELOW:
The Union Bank
Building, circa 1935.

PERC TUCKER REGIONAL GALLERY

The site where the Perc Tucker Gallery is now located was originally sold to Sarah Atkins at the first land sale held in Bowen. It was the highest price paid for a block of land at that sale. Not long after Sarah bought the land she sold it to F. Hamilton who built a hotel on the site. Over time the hotel was sold several times until the Union Bank purchased the site in 1884.

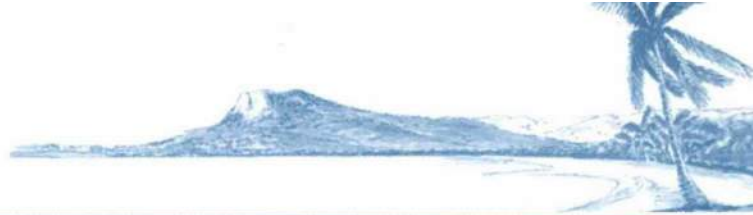
Although it seems the hotel had a number of names towards the end it was called The West End Hotel as indeed that site was considered the west end of the township. The hotel was demolished in 1884.

The Union Bank building was designed by the colonial architect, F.D.G. Stanley. It was first occupied by the bank on Saturday 12 June 1885. Originally it was designed as a single storey building but due to the need



for expansion a second storey was added in 1935. The ANZ Bank was the last commercial business to own the building. In 1981 the Townsville City Council bought the heritage building and developed it as a public gallery. It was officially opened by the Mayor of Townsville, Alderman M.F. Reynolds, on 25 September 1981. It is named in honour of the late Alderman Percy Tucker, Mayor of Townsville from 1976 to 1980.

Triumphs and Tears



Townsville is well known throughout Queensland for its rich sporting history. Many of Queensland's and Australia's first sporting clubs were established in Townsville with golf, racing, sailing, rugby league and cricket among the first.

Sporting facilities first appeared in Townsville in the 1860s. Just two years after Black arrived in Townsville, the Burdekin and Flinders Turf Club was formed in 1866. The first races were held on the beach of the Strand from Melton Hill to Kissing Point. The first race track was established at Garbutt in 1868. A new course was established in 1883 at Cluden.

The city's first cricket ground was opened in 1870 in the vicinity of the Botanical Gardens Reserve and Central State School.

The Magnetic Island to Townsville Swim was first held in 1954 in honour of the visit of Queen Elizabeth. The locals wanted to have an entertaining event that would be distinctly different to celebrate this momentous occasion. The race continues to be a prominent event in the town's sporting calendar with many well known swimmers competing in the 8km annual event.

The North Queensland Games are held every two years. The Games, the largest of their type held in Australia, are a multi sport event that began in 1984. Thousands of people compete in over 50 sports with competitors ranging in age from the very young to the young at heart.

Townsville has been the birthplace and breeding ground for a number of Australia's leading sports people and teams. Townsville sports people have represented Australia at Olympic Games – both summer and winter, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, World Cup events and Masters Games. Townsville currently has two national sporting teams in Basketball and Rugby League.

The Murray Sporting Complex in Annandale was started in 1968 with the original hockey fields being built in 1969. The complex includes an international standard hockey pitch and grass fields, basketball stadium, soccer, rugby league, Australian Rules fields, netball courts and skatepark. A cycling velodrome and equestrian complex are located nearby.

Tobruk Pool, located on the Strand, was used by the 1956 Australian swimming team for training before the Melbourne Olympic Games. Famous swimmers including Dawn Fraser, John Conrads and Lorraine Crapp spent weeks training at the pool in preparation for the Olympic Games.

Townsville Firsts

Not only was the Townsville Golf Club the first golf club in Townsville but it was the first formed in Queensland and one of the first in Australia.

A SELECTION OF TOWNSVILLE SPORTS PEOPLE WHO HAVE REPRESENTED AUSTRALIA

Merv Crossman	Hockey
Helen Gray	Swimming
Barry Malcolm	Hockey
Jim Mason	Hockey
Alan Oshyer	Weight lifting
Nev Pery	Weight lifting
Lesley Mayes	Swimming
Darcy Clayton	Archery
Gisela Clayton	Archery
Leah Feldt	Archery
Glen Buchanan	Swimming
Robyn Bonniface	Hockey
Linda Orrow	Cycling
Mark Bragg	Basketball
Sandy Miller	Water polo
Renita Farrell	Hockey
Roy Kubig	Swimming
Brett Clarke	Table tennis
Joyce Tragea	Table tennis
Austin Adarraga	Squash
Natalie Cook	Volleyball
Pete Burge	Athletics



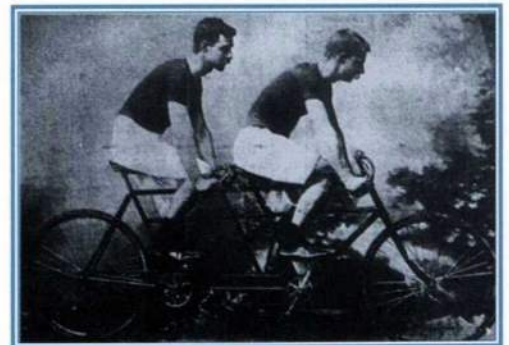
Racecourse, North Ward, circa 1886.



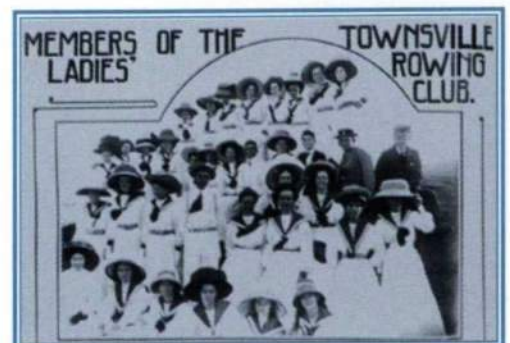
Cricket Team Queen's Park, circa 1890.

Townsville Firsts

On 1 May 1933, Townsville hosted the first ever bullfight in Australia. Mount Saint John was the site for this historic event, which raised 600 pounds for local charities. The organiser of this bullfight, Mr St John Robinson, gave 37 pounds to the local cruelty to animals society.



Tandem record makers, 1897.

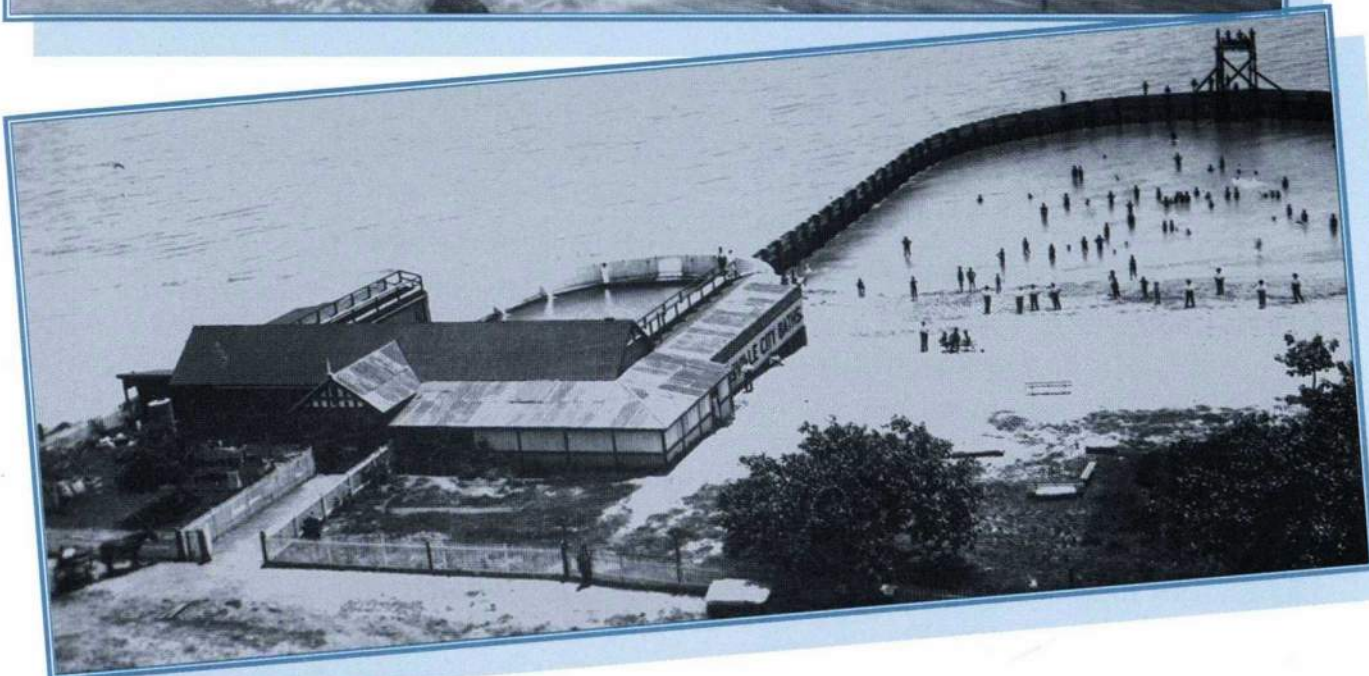


Ladies' Rowing Club, circa 1911.

Swimming on the Strand



Top: The Strand 1890. Centre: 1905. Bottom: pre-1921



Top: The Strand 1921. Centre: 1924. Bottom: circa 1954.

Rations and Raids



When Japan attacked Pearl Harbour in 1941 the fear that war would reach Australia became widespread. As Townsville had a large shipping port and was close to the Pacific it was an ideal location for a military base. Townsville also became an important training area for both the Australian and American Forces as the rainforests around Townsville are very similar to the rainforests in Papua New Guinea.

PREPARING FOR WAR

Townsville changed dramatically during World War II. For a start, as American and Australian army, airforce and navy personnel poured into the district, Townsville's population grew from around 32 000 in early 1942 to 122 000 by mid 1943. This put a lot of pressure on resources such as food, water, ice and housing. Food was rationed and water was available only for a couple of hours in the morning and evening.

To help protect people living in Townsville the City Council dug slit trenches - open holes in the ground, around the city. The slit trenches were a problem during the wet season as they filled up with water. Fifteen concrete boxes, known as 'Hanlon's Hideouts', were built along Flinders Street. The boxes were to be used as air raid shelters if Townsville were attacked. Almost every house in Townsville had a shelter of some kind. Some people dug trenches while others made shelters of sandbags or wood.

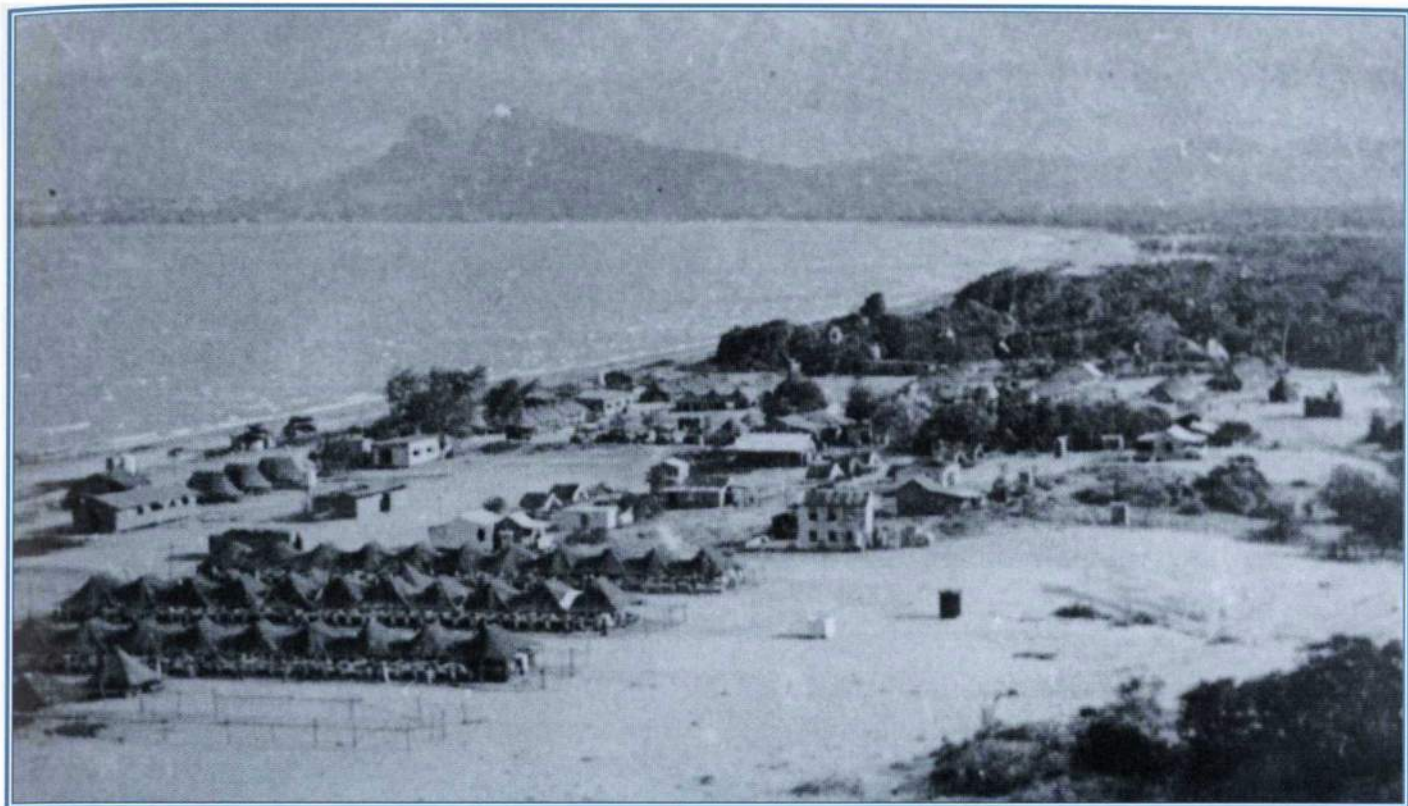
The Post Office tower was taken down so it couldn't be used as a target by the enemy. To help slow down the enemy barbed wire was stretched along the beaches and mudflats. Guns and searchlights were placed around the city in strategic positions. During a 'blackout' all house lights and street lights were switched off and the city was in complete darkness. For the rest of the time lights could be used as long as windows were covered in brown paper or painted with blackout paint. This was called a 'brownout'. Sirens would wail at any hour of the day or night to alert people to find shelter from approaching aircraft. Air raid drills were practised regularly.

EVACUATIONS

In 1942 people in Townsville were encouraged to evacuate. Many families, especially women and children, left their homes and lived with family or friends out west or down south so they were away from danger if the coast were attacked. In the



Air raid shelters, 1942-1945.



Army Hospital, Pallarenda, 1943.

middle of February it was estimated that up to 60 homes a day were evacuated. People who stayed in Townsville had a small bag packed ready to take with them if they had to leave straight away.

SCHOOL LIFE

School life was disrupted greatly during the war years. Some of the schools were closed down and others were used for military purposes such as headquarters, hospitals and accommodation for soldiers. For those children who hadn't been evacuated school was late starting in 1942. It was required that slit trenches be dug in the school grounds so that it was safe for children to attend school. While waiting for school to start children did special correspondence lessons organised by their teachers. At school air raid drills were practised daily. Some children were given camouflage hoods or sugar bags to wear in the trenches. In case of an air raid some

children were given a cloth bag with items such as cotton wool, bandages and disinfectant. Others were given a wooden peg to bite on if there was a bomb blast. Children also learnt first aid every day at school so they would know how to treat injuries and shock.

Did You Know?



During the war thirty houses in Chapman Street, Mysterton were taken over by the U.S. Army to make the 12th Station Hospital. The people who lived in Chapman Street were given approximately one week to leave their homes. Walls were knocked out and houses joined by covered walkways. The houses on one side were used as wards, while the other side was used as laundries, laboratories, kitchens and storage for medical supplies.

Rations and Raids *(continued)*

JAPANESE AIR RAIDS

Townsville came under enemy attack on the night of 25 July 1942. It was at about 11:30pm when four Japanese Kawanishi flying boats started to circle around Townsville. They were soon spotted by searchlights and were forced out to sea. They returned at about 12:40am and dropped bombs on the harbour and the tidal flats near the mouth of Ross River. Nothing was damaged.

A second attack was made on 28 July at about 2:25 am, by a single flying boat. The RAAF Radar Station detected the aircraft an amazing 1 hour and 50 minutes before it reached the town. Six American Kittyhawks were called into action. Anti-aircraft batteries were fired at the flying boat when it was spotted by searchlights but this made it hard for the Kittyhawks to intercept the plane. The Japanese aircraft dropped nine bombs near Many Peaks Ridge, which the pilot may have mistaken for Garbutt Airfield. Once again there were no casualties or property damage.

On 29 July at 12:27 in the morning Townsville was attacked for a third time. The radar station issued a warning 30 minutes before and two Kittyhawk fighters tried to cut off the bomber. After 2.00 am four American Airacobras joined in the chase. The flying boat managed to drop several bombs in Cleveland Bay. Another bomb fell harmlessly in the grounds of the Animal Health Station at Oonoonba, damaging a palm tree and some fence posts. Altogether twenty-six bombs were dropped by the Japanese over Townsville.



Anti-aircraft guns, 1942.

Did You Know?



A plan to attack Japanese harbours by launching collapsible canoes carrying men who would attach limpet mines to the sides of the Japanese ships was tested in the Port of Townsville. The practice attack was named "Operation Scorpion."

At midnight on 20 June 1943, the practice attack began. Five canoes, each with 2 men, left their base on Magnetic Island and started paddling towards Townsville Harbour. They managed to attach limpet mines to 10 ships without being detected much to the astonishment and embarrassment of ship's captains when they noticed something strange under their ships the next morning. The operation was considered a success and used in future attacks.



Dalrymple Road during World War II.

Source:
Royal Australian Air Force

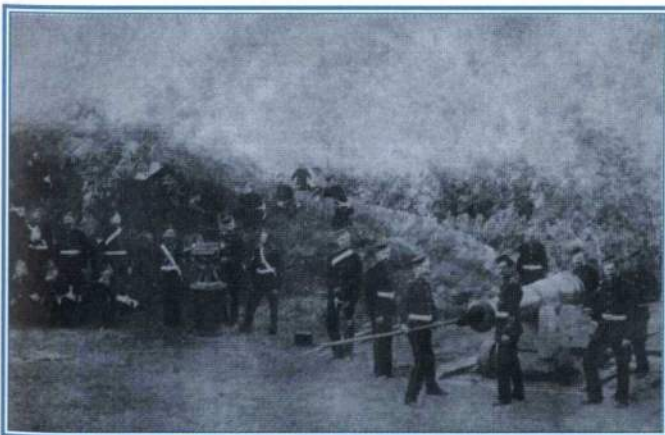


Although people were supposed to be taking cover in their bomb shelters many sat outside and watched the action as it unfolded across the Townsville night sky.

(Source: *Townsville at War* by Darryl McIntyre, p 68-71).

KISSING POINT FORT

In 1878 a group of volunteers formed the Queensland Volunteer Artillery. These Townsville men were becoming concerned that North Queensland would be attacked by a foreign power, particularly Russia. The Kissing Point Fort was constructed in 1889-1891 to help protect the North Queensland coastline. It is one of only a few remaining coastal defences constructed in Australia in the Nineteenth Century.



Garrison Artillery, Kissing Point, pre-1901

Source: North Queensland Military Museum

Unfortunately the Fort did not prove very useful as the shallow waters of Cleveland Bay would have prevented warships of any size or power approaching the Townsville harbour anyway. As the Fort could not protect the northern and western areas around Townsville new forts were set up during World War II at north-west Pallarenda and Magnetic Island. Since that time the Kissing Point Fort has remained the property of the Army as part of the Jezzine Barracks.

In 1979 the Australian Army realised the significance of the Kissing Point Fort with its history of the defence of North Queensland and a committee of soldiers and civilians turned it into a military museum. On 12 June 1980 the museum was officially opened by the Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Sir Donald Dunstan and the Mayor of Townsville, Alderman Perc Tucker.

Did You Know?



Dalrymple Road was an air strip during the war.

Wheels and Cogs



Townsville is a large industrial city where many enterprises have grown and developed. These are just a few.

PORT

When John Melton Black arrived one of the first things he organised was the clearing of the mangroves along the left bank of Ross Creek and the building of a wharf which enabled the unloading of shipments needed for the settlement. The first Townsville Harbour Board meeting was held on 26 March 1896. By 1900 the Ross Creek entrance had been widened, a 20 ton steam crane installed and 560m of wharves had been built along the eastern breakwater. In 1901 a rock bar at the mouth of Ross Creek was blasted and dredging along the wharves and Platypus Channel made the port deeper. At this time a large meat export trade, wool and an expanding sugar trade was shipped through the port. In the 1910s so many ships were using the port that many had to wait for a berth.

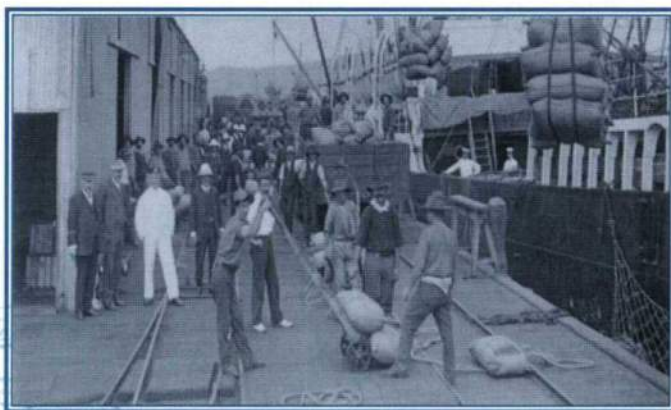
Work was discontinued on the port during World War I. With the added pressure of coping with the Defence Forces during the war and the strikes in the decade after the war the port was nearly ruined. However in the 1920s, when Invicta Mill at Giru crushed sugar for the first time, a dramatic increase in the number of shipments occurred followed by major developments to the port's facilities. This improvement led to the first shipment of products from Mount Isa Mines in 1931.

In 1942, during World War II, the port was a stronghold for the Allied Forces so

the Japanese attempted three air raids on the port. As the war continued Allied victories and stronger defences ended the Japanese raids. Port overcrowding was once again a major problem as the port tried to deal with the needs of the Allied Forces as well as maintaining regular trade.

Although developmental work slowed down after the war due to shortages of material a number of projects were completed, such as the widening of the Eastern Breakwater and a storage area for Mount Isa Mines products. In 1954 the port hosted Queen Elizabeth II's first visit to Townsville.

In the late 1950s the building of a bulk sugar terminal was completed. It was the Harbour Board's biggest project during that decade. In 1963 a great fire burst out in the sugar sheds – a great mystery as raw sugar was thought not to burn. As a result fire prevention methods were activated at all sugar terminals. Further tragedy struck in 1971 when 122 knot winds from Cyclone Althea knocked out all the beacons in Platypus Channel and left the port without power for two days. The Port Control



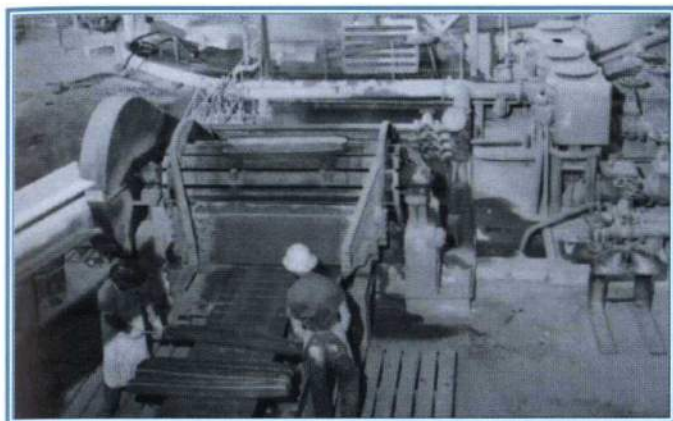
Woolowra loading sugar at Townsville Port, 1908.

Source: Townsville Port Authority

building was devastated and many small ships were damaged.

The Townsville Harbour Board officially changed its name to the Townsville Port Authority in 1987.

COPPER REFINERY



The Copper Refinery located on the outskirts of Townsville in Stuart, owned and operated by Mount Isa Mining was officially opened on 2 October, 1959 by the State Premier, the Honourable G.F.R. Nicklin. Work on the site began in September 1956. The process at the Copper Refinery turns the copper ore into 99.99% pure grade A copper. In 1959 the refinery had a capacity of 40 000 tonnes of copper per year. By the end of the 1990s it had increased its capacity by 575% to 230 000 tonnes.

RAILWAY

Surveying for a railway line in Townsville started in 1875. The railway was needed because of the increase in mining and pastoral activities out west. Before railway the means of transport was Cobb and Co and bullock teams. These were extremely slow and easily bogged in the wet season. The first section of railway from Townsville to Reid River was opened in 1880 and the section to Charters Towers in 1882. Ravenswood was reached in 1884, Hughenden in 1887, Cloncurry in 1908.

The sixth and last section to Mount Isa was opened in 1929.

Originally the railway was supposed to head west from the port but under the influence of the city business people, the spur line was redirected across Ross Creek to the site of the first station on Flinders St West. During the 1890s the townspeople wanted a better station built closer to town so an improved one was built in 1913 which is the one still in operation today. The adjacent administration block was built in 1965.

The rail had a big part to play in World War II and that role was relived in 1995 during the VP 50 celebrations when the troop train arrived from Brisbane.



Townsville Railway Station, 1932.

Townsville Firsts

When the Townsville Bulletin started in 1881 it printed two newspapers a week, costing three pence each. However, due to public demand, the Townsville local newspaper appeared daily from January 1883 becoming the first published daily newspaper in Queensland.

Nature's Fury



Townsville has experienced a large number of cyclones over the years. In between the years of 1940 and 1969, Townsville was hit by more cyclones than any other town in Australia.

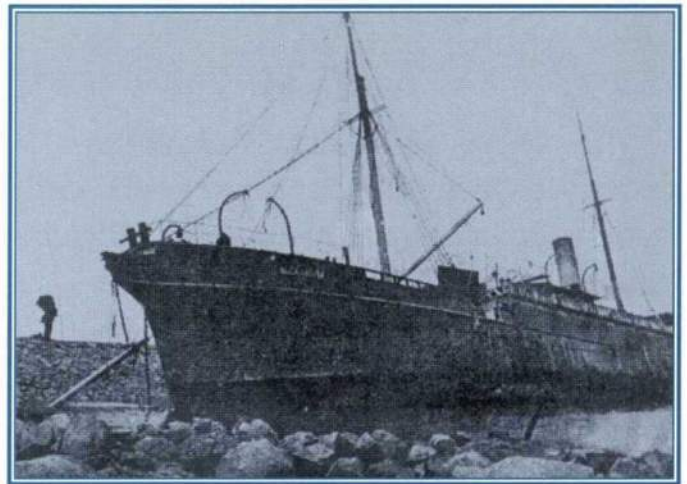
THE AWESOME FOURSOME

Although there have been many cyclones in Townsville's long history many were not recorded until the last 150 years. The first cyclone recorded by European settlers was on March 3 and 4 in 1867. It was unnamed as Townsville was not yet three years old. The settlers, having not experienced such conditions before, wondered what was going on! Tents were blown away and shacks were blown to pieces leaving the occupants out in the open. A considerable number of people left the settlement as a result.

An unsolved mystery of the 1867 cyclone was the disappearance of the ship *Eva* and its passengers. When the *Eva* tried to come into Cleveland Bay on 3 March it was not able to land cargo and passengers because of the huge waves. So it tried to find shelter near Magnetic Island. After the storm the *Eva* was nowhere to be found. Then in November 1867 four white men and a woman were reportedly sighted on Hinchinbrook Island. A search party scoured the island and found an embroidered handkerchief, a partly burnt woman's shoe, a ship's locker, human hair and bones. Unfortunately they never found the missing people. Their disappearance remains a mystery.

The second cyclone, again unnamed, hit in 1870. Damage was caused to the settlement but both cyclones were timid and weak compared to the awesome power of the third and fourth cyclones, Sigma and Leonta.

Sigma hit on 26 January 1896 and Townsville took a devastating blow. Eighteen people were killed including six women and children who were in a rescue



Alexandria run aground, Cyclone Sigma, 1896.

Townsville Firsts

Townsville's first ambulance service started after concerned citizens brought up the subject at a town meeting on 19 October 1900. The appointment of Superintendent went to Mr G. R. King. The local butcher kindly donated a horse and buggy to help with transportation. A stable for the horse was built in Sturt Street.



*North Ward after Cyclone Leonta
(corner of Eyre and Leichhardt Sts), 1903.*



Townsville General Hospital after Leonta, 1903.

boat which overturned. Dozens of vessels were set hopelessly adrift in the raging waters, smashing against rocks and each other. Ships like the cargo ship *Florence Elliot* and *Presto* broke from the wharf and sank with valuable cargo. *Lalla Rookh* drifted helplessly and ended up on Magnetic Island. Houses were blown off their stumps and sent rolling down the street. One family's home was blown off its stumps and landed intact in their garden.

Leonta was the last of the four early cyclones to wreak havoc on Townsville and hit on 9 March 1903. In the one year Townsville was named a city and almost blown off the map. It flung itself at the city unexpectedly. Children were still at school when it appeared. Once again walls crumbled and roofs were sent flying over

the horizon. Most of the damage was done in the first few minutes. For 14 hours the terror varied its attacks, pausing for several minutes before pounding the residents with stronger gusts. At the hospital on Stanton Hill typhoid patients were removed from the top story of the two story building just before the roof was ripped off by the wind and the fourteen inch brick walls of the upper story collapsed on the lower story killing five people.

CYCLONE ALTHEA

The cyclone that was responsible for four deaths on Christmas Eve 1971 was cyclone Althea. Serious damage occurred in the suburbs of Pallarenda, Yarrowonga, Garbutt and Magnetic Island. In those days many houses in Townsville were not built to stand up to the vicious, devastating force



Damage at the airport after Cyclone Althea, 1971.



*Damaged houses at Pallarenda,
Cyclone Althea 1971.*

Nature's Fury *(continued)*



of a cyclone. Roofs were ripped off, windows smashed and walls were blown away. One person was decapitated by a flying piece of iron. The wind reached speeds of up to 203 kilometres an hour at Garbutt and 221 kilometres an hour at Magnetic Island. In 5 hours 190mm of rain fell at North Ward and 244mm at James Cook University. Storm surges caused the low tide to rise from 1.3 metres to 2.85 metres and the high tide reached a massive 4.15 metres. The damage from Althea all up cost \$6 million.

CYCLONE TESSI

It was Monday morning 3 April 2000 when Cyclone Tessi hit Townsville. Powerlines were torn down during the night and homes were flooded. Trees were blown onto fences and in some cases trees fell on homes and blocked roads. Many businesses had to be closed. Some roads were covered in up to 90cm of water. Cars had water up to their windscreens and some were swept into ditches at the side of the road. Some people lost power for up to three days.

FLOODS

Flooding is another problem in Townsville particularly in the aftermath of cyclones. In March 1946 305mm of rain was recorded in a two hour period in the Upper Ross area. Over four metres of water was flowing over the Aplins Weir. During the floods a house floated from the site of the present A1 motel on Bowen Road, Rosslea, down Bowen Road and onto Hodel



South Townsville houses, 1946.



Republic Hotel, corner of Plume and McIlwraith Streets, South Townsville.

Street, where it came to rest on a vacant allotment opposite the present no. 56.

One of Townsville's most expensive floods occurred in January 1998. The downpour started on 10 January and continued over a staggering 8 days. The rain depression that caused the flood was ex-tropical cyclone Sid. The buckets of rain caused many dry, small creeks to become raging torrents that swept away bridges



Flooded house, Boundary Street, 1946.

and roads as if they were made of paper rather than concrete and bitumen. On the first night of the floods an amazing 950mm of rain fell at James Cook University.



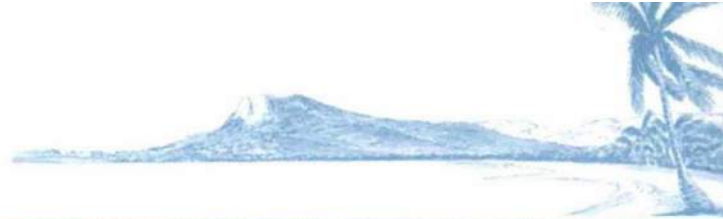
Town Common fire, 1965.

Did You Know?



1877 saw the building of a fire station shed on the corner of Flinders Street and Denham Street. The station had a bell but neither firemen nor a fire engine. In 1878 a voluntary fire brigade was formed. A man by the name of Augustus Fisher Lowe was elected Captain Superintendent of the Brigade. By this time a manually drawn engine had been bought. On 28 May 1878 a fire started in the bush behind Mr Champion's property. This was the first alarm since the Townsville Fire Brigade began. Unfortunately the fire engine broke down and the flames of the fire had to be beaten out by hand.

A Sight to See



CASTLE HILL

CASTLE HILL by A.Gitano

*Thou gloomy hill! In years to come
Thou'll stand where thou dost now,
And see, unmoved, the weight of care
That stamps each prisoner's brow!
Beneath thy frown will guilty men
In shackles lie and groan,
But thou wilt never heed their cries,
Thou massive mount of stone.*

(Published in the *Townsville Herald*, 4 July 1877)

It's Townsville's Statue of Liberty, Eiffel Tower or Harbour Bridge, but it's a natural landmark.

(Townsville City Council, *The vision for Castle Hill: Management Plan 1993*)

▲ Castle Hill is a 298 metre high natural statue that looms over the heart of the city. 298 metres is 997 feet, 3 feet short of being a mountain. In the past it has been suggested that an extra couple of boulders be placed on the top so that Castle Hill could become a mountain.

▲ Castle Hill was named by Andrew Ball in 1864. It is thought he named it either because he thought it resembled part of the Isle of Man or a hill near Dublin. The hill was also named Mount Cudtheringa by Lieutenant Heath during a survey of Cleveland Bay. This may have been on the suggestion of James Morrill who was with Lieutenant Heath at the time. Cudtheringa possibly means 'Possum Dreaming'

▲ Goats living on Castle Hill were a major nuisance in Townsville for

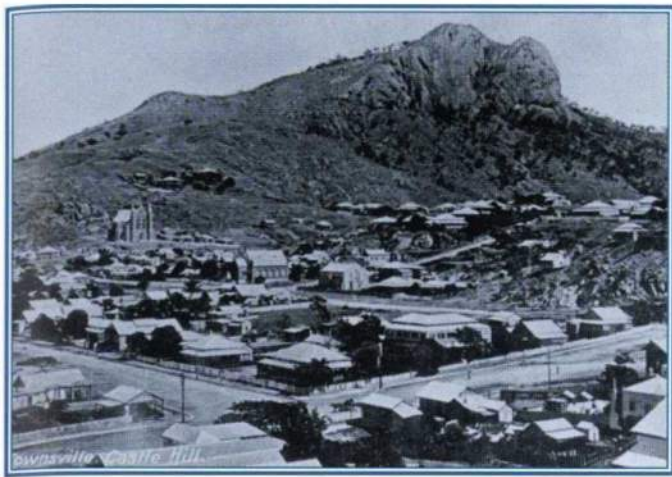
many years. In 1879 goats on Castle Hill reached plague proportions. The City Council offered Aborigines one shilling for each goat captured and within a short time 300 goats were deported to Magnetic, Palm and Rattle Snake Islands. The Council received a letter in 1922 stating that herds of goats from Castle Hill spent most of their recreational hours in the vicinity of Victoria and Stanley Streets.

▲ Castle Hill has been referred to as "the world's biggest piece of gym equipment" by the former coach of the Sun's Basketball, Mark Bragg.

▲ The most notable mark to be found on Castle Hill is the Saint. The 20 meter high figure is reported to have been first painted on the side of Castle Hill in March 1962, by a couple of University students after a popular

Townsville Firsts

The first time the Australian flag was officially flown on Australian soil was right here in Townsville on 16 September 1901. This special event occurred during a visit of the first Governor-General, the Earl of Hopetoun. The flag was made in Townsville by a local sail maker and chandler, William McKenzie. A commemorative flag pole is located in Flinders Mall to mark this special occasion.



City from Melton Hill

television series of the time. It was then touched up in 1970 when a mechanic by the name of Maurice Smith lowered an unidentified Army cook down the cliff face to touch up this infamous saint.

Over the years there have been several suggestions that Castle Hill be quarried and the stone used to build a road to Magnetic Island. In 1885 it was reported in the North Queensland Telegraph that at a Council meeting a suggestion had been made to employ convicts to demolish Castle Hill and construct a road from Kissing Point to Magnetic Island. A letter from St John Robinson was published in the Townsville Bulletin in 1938 suggesting that a causeway be built to Magnetic Island using rock from Castle Hill. A rumour circulated in 1942 stating that the US Army offered to demolish Castle Hill and construct a causeway to Magnetic Island.

The Minister for Labour and Industry, Hon. M.P Hynes, MLA, officially opened the Castle Hill road and summit lookout on 27 February 1937. The Robert Towns Memorial was erected in the summit parking area in 1949.

▲ Sir, can you inform me who is responsible for the disreputable appearance of the most prominent feature of our city. In 1880 it was a pleasure to look at our hill covered, as it was then by pine trees, and strangers were struck with the beautiful aspect the hill presented. Just look at it now in 1887 and tell me what has become of the timber.

An enquirer, Townsville Daily Bulletin, 1887.

▲ Because of complaints, Castle Hill was proclaimed a recreation reserve in 1888 and a tree ranger was appointed to prevent further destruction of the hill. In 1992 Castle Hill was listed on the Queensland Heritage register.

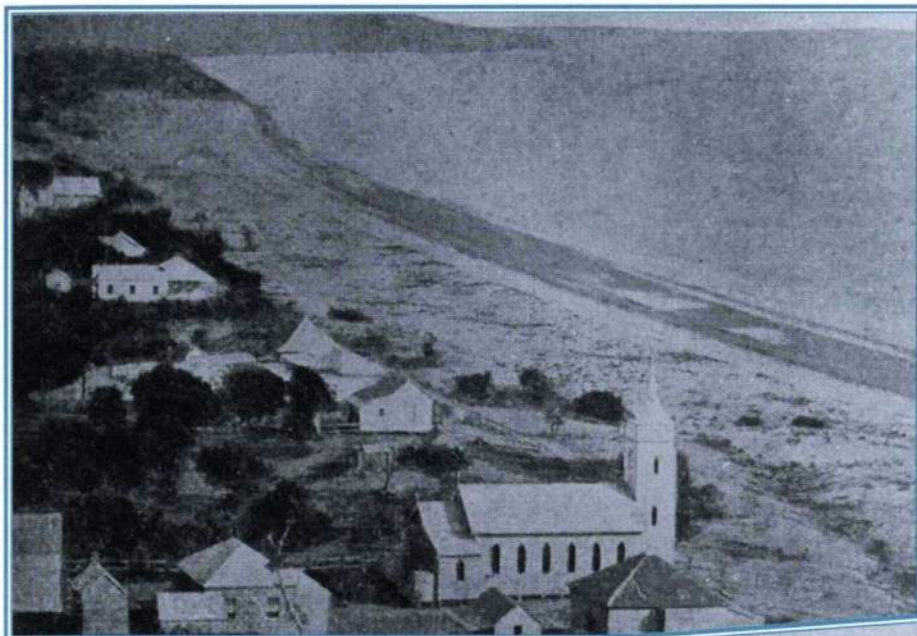
THE ROCK POOL

✿ The full name of the Rock Pool is "Coral Sea Memorial Rock Pool", and it was opened in 1968 as a dedication to the sailors and airmen who lost their lives during the battle of the Coral Sea in 1942. The Townsville City Council considered blasting rock from Kissing Point to construct the sea wall but the Council decided that it would be more economically and satisfactorily carried out by tender.

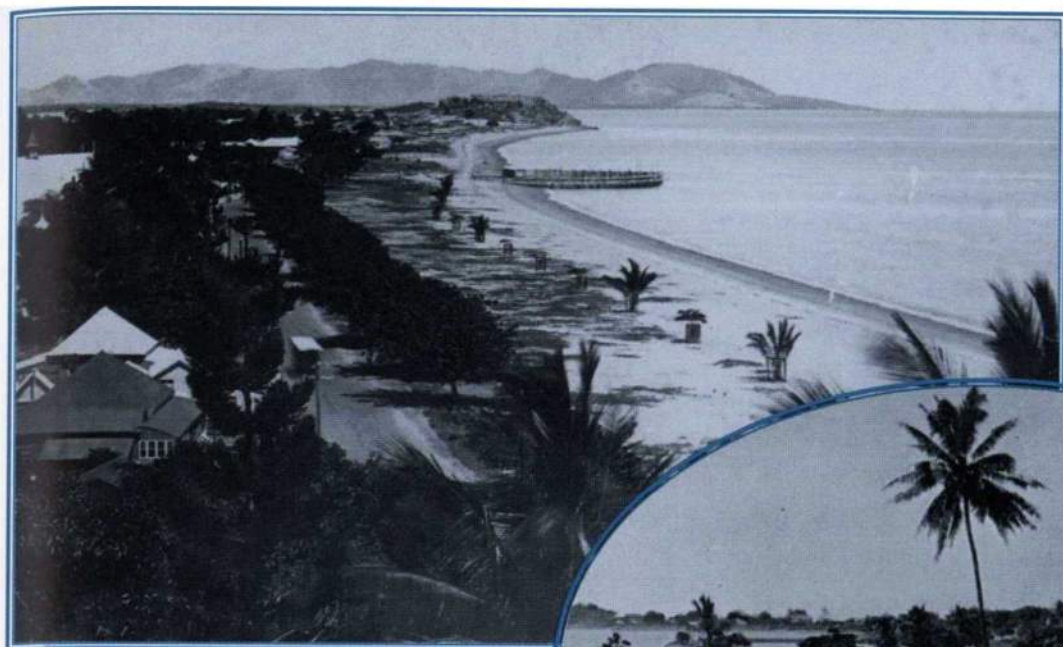
✿ Work started on the Rock Pool on 25 July 1968 by Lazzaroni Brothers of



A baby crocodile found in the Rock Pool, 1970.



Top: The Strand
1873
Centre: 1896
Bottom: 1904.



Source:
Queensland
Military
Museum



*From top:
The Strand
circa 1920;
1932;
1974;
2000.*

Source: Peter Treasure
Photography

A Sight to See *(continued)*



Townsville. 13000 tonnes of rock were used to enclose the 1 acre bathing area. This rock was taken from the firm's Roseneath quarry.



The Coral Sea Memorial Pool was officially opened on 28 September 1968. Since the opening a number of weird creatures have been discovered there including: a small shark, a few sea snakes, a stone fish, mud and sand crabs and a baby crocodile.

THE STRAND

Since Townsville was first settled the Strand has been the most popular beachfront area for social gatherings. The earliest settlers built beach-huts on the Strand and enjoyed swimming and picnicking.

The first Catholic Church in Townsville was built on The Strand in 1872.

In 1913 the owner of the Queens Hotel, also a City Councillor, was worried about the appearance of the surrounding area of his hotel. He decided to beautify the area in front of his hotel and it then became known as Strand Park. In addition, a bandstand was placed in Strand Park. The park is now known as Anzac Park.

During World War II Australian and American troops practised beach landings from military amphibious craft. In 1943 landing craft came ashore near the Ethel M. Crowther

bathing enclosure at Kissing Point to unload vehicles and supplies.


Freda Gietzke lived on the Strand during World War II and one morning Freda opened the curtains and saw a U.S Navy Flotilla anchored outside preparing for the Battle of the Coral Sea.


The Tobruk Pool is situated on the Strand in Townsville and is one of Australia's most famous swimming pools. It was constructed towards the end of the Second World War and became the official training site for Olympians during years 1952, 1956, 1960 and 1964. Around 55 Australian Olympic swimmers converged on the shores of Townsville including champions such as Dawn Fraser, Murray Rose, Jon Henricks, Lorraine Thurlow (nee Crapp) and Robert Windle.


The Strand Waterfall, designed by Alan Wilson, Council Parks Superintendent, was handed over to the Mayor, Alderman Harold Phillips on 13 May 1968 by the Queen of Magnetikana, Miss Barbara Mays.


The Strand suffered extensive damage after Cyclone Justin hit in March 1997. There was further destruction by the storm ex-cyclone Sid in January 1998. As a result of the damage major construction was needed. Three headlands were built in the new development to help lessen the force of extreme weather conditions. The headlands were also designed to trap


sand and break the force of waves. These headlands are the largest developments of their type designed in Australia.


 In 1999, whilst the Townsville City Council was redeveloping the Strand, bulldozers uncovered a clutch of Flatback turtle eggs. They were rescued and taken to Reef HQ where they were safely hatched and reared.

 The newly revamped Strand was officially opened in October 1999.


 Sister Kenny Park is the site of the Water playground. This section of the Strand was named after legendary Australian nurse, Sister Kenny, who provided therapy relief to thousands of polio victims.

 The Strand's redevelopment consisted of 100,000 square metres of turf, 7,500 ground cover plants, 6,500 shrubs, and 620 new palm trees (not including coconuts), 570 general trees and 80 palm trees which were originally moved from the Strand while excavation work was being done. When the work was finished they were replanted with all surviving.


 There were over 40,000 truck movements involved with redeveloping The Strand. 250,000 tonnes of rock, 390,000 tonnes of earth fill and 400,000 tonnes of sand were transported.


 The Strand is 2.2 kilometres long.


FLINDERS STREET


 Back in the 1800s, Flinders Street was not only a main road in Townsville but it was where all of the warehouses and


shops would stock and supply produce and other goods to the wharf, docks and to the public. In 1864 when Townsville was first established Flinders Street was a rough track running along the bank of Ross Creek and was often covered with water at high tide.


 In the wet season of 1866-67 the Council covered the mud of Flinders Street with mangrove saplings.


 Gas lights were installed in Flinders Street in 1883.


 To help keep the dust down in 1884 Flinders Street was watered with salt water.


 In 1887 James Alexander stretched a tightrope across Flinders Street and walked safely across.

 Mr P. Burke was fined five shillings for leaving his spring cart unattended in Flinders Street on 4 July, 1887 .

 W. A. Welch collided with a stray horse while riding his bicycle in Flinders Street in 1889.

 Flinders Street was lit by electricity in 1922.

 In 1923 flower beds were established along the middle of Flinders Street.

 By November 1963 the Council was interested in converting part of Flinders Street into a pedestrian mall and arcade. The Mayor, Alderman Angus Smith, called upon the owners and business representatives in the Central Business District to investigate ideas and suggestions. In June 1970 Council employed Geoffrey Mill Pty. Ltd. to study the problem. The Flinders Mall was opened on 1 November 1979 by the Mayor, Alderman Percy Tucker.



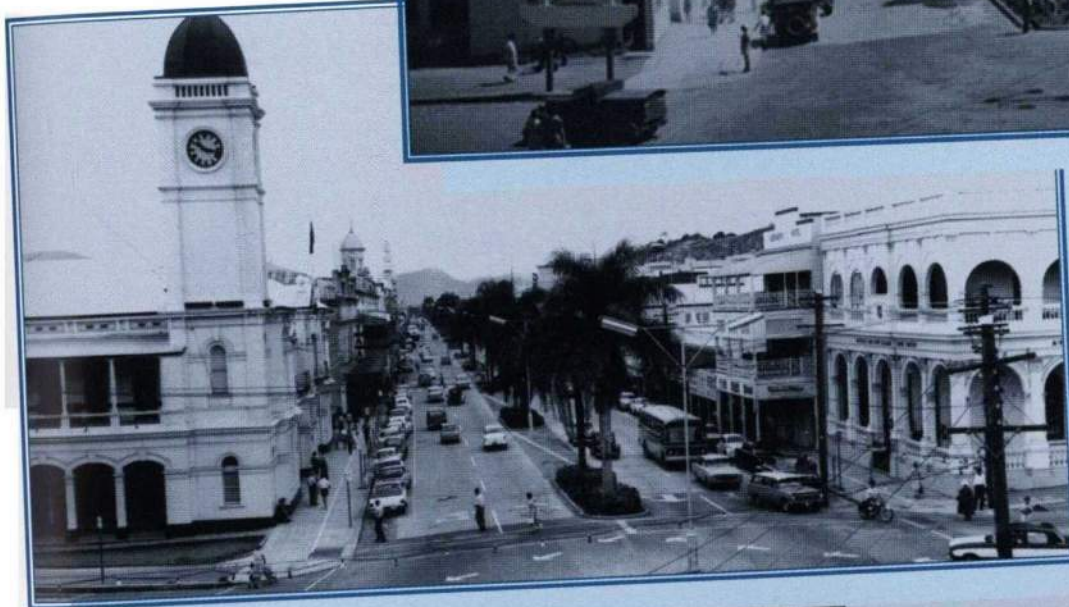
*Top: Flinders Street,
circa 1876.*

Centre: 1885.

Bottom: 1897.



Note: (below)
Hanlon's Hideouts
(air raid shelters down
the middle of the street)
and missing
Post Office tower.



From top:
Flinders Street
1928;
1943;
1964;
1996.



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Did You Know?



In 1877 a swing bridge was built near the mouth of Ross River. Unfortunately, because no-one could swing it, the bridge was demolished in 1879.

Townsville Firsts

Ice-cream first arrived in Townsville in 1889.

In the Shadow of Castle Hill is a history of Townsville designed specifically for primary school children. A combination of facts and dates with interesting stories and trivia will whet the appetite of the younger generation and give an overall picture of Townsville history.



The William Ross High School Leading Learners

Back Row (L to R):

Phillip Teakle, Shaun Galbraith, Anupa Manatunga, Zoie Jones, Kathy Hillyard, Drew Anderson, Shaun Woodgates.

Front Row (L to R):

Kerrie Aitken, Clare Robinson, Tiffany Hartigan, Deena Alexander, Patricia Hu.

Did You Know?



In 1871 a man was fined for shooting at a crocodile in Stokes Street. Although he missed he was fined a total of two pounds with costs.

