

Redland Libraries

Redlands Coast *Timelines*

Mount Cotton



Mount Cotton cricket match, 1920s

HP00292

WARNING: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this document may contain the images and/or names of people who have passed away.

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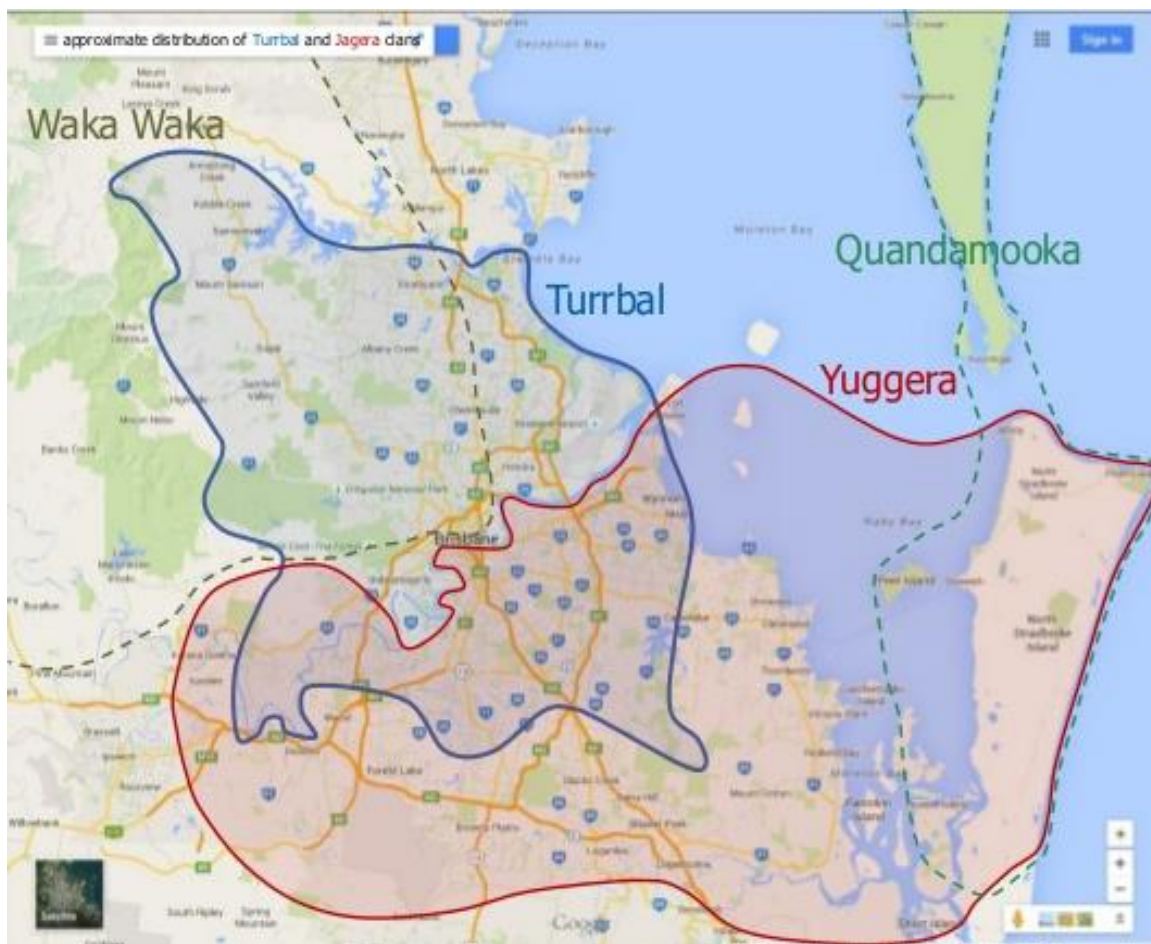
Mount Cotton, 1955

Gorenpul and Quandamooka people have lived on and around this area for tens of thousands of years. Geological evidence dates occupation at a minimum of 21,000 years. Local people identify the Noonucal, Gorenpul and Nughi as the traditional owners of the Islands and adjoining areas.

Food supplies were plentiful. Fishing, hunting and gathering were part of the communal economy, with people collecting food according to their carrying capacity, and food shared according to families' needs. Dugong as well as fish such as mullet and tailor were caught with nets, sometimes aided by dolphins. Turtle and shellfish were also collected. Villages and campsites existed across the region, and such places were often designated as a Reserve, and not opened for settlement.

Oysters, mullet, crabs, cowrie, prawns, cockles, eugarie, mussels and turtle were common foods at different times of the year. Other foods hunted and collected at different times of the year included kangaroo, wallaby, goannas, flying foxes, birds, possum, and bandicoots, native fruits and berries, honey, and drinks made from flowers. Bungwal/dingowa the rhizome of a fern, was pounded into flour, to make a type of damper or bread, and once a year a journey was made to the Bunya Mountains to gather bunya nuts, which could also be used the same way, or eaten roasted or fresh. Grind stones have been dated back more than 30,000 years, making Aboriginal people the world's first bakers.

Corroborees and other ceremonies were an integral part of community life, and huge regional celebrations were likely to have had ceremonial, spiritual, social, cultural and economic significance. Campsites and dwellings existed wherever there was fresh water nearby. The original inhabitants called the mountain Tungipin or Jungalpin, meaning *west wind*. When the European settlers arrived in the 1820s, the Aboriginal people in the area numbered more than 5,000. The new arrivals caused huge change to Quandamooka lifestyles and to the environment.



European Settlement

In May 1842 the Moreton Bay penal settlement was officially proclaimed closed and the region was opened to free settlers who called the southern end of Mount Cotton to the Logan River *Redland*. Joseph Clark ran cattle on 25,000 acres stretching from Ormiston through Mount Cotton to the Logan River and east to Moreton Bay. By 1858 Clark had relinquished the lease, which went to Thomas Blacket Stevens who ran a fellmongery (tannery) and wool scour (wool wash) on Hilliards Creek on what is now Sturgeon Street in Ormiston.

Jungalpin/Tungipin was re-named Mount Cotton by surveyor Robert Dixon, after the commandant of the penal settlement of Moreton Bay, Major Sydney Cotton.



Aboriginal people are credited with showing the Mount Cotton region to various early settlers including Jack Shears, who was reputedly the first white man to visit Mount Cotton in about 1863, and who was also the first European to fell timber in the area.

The Shears and Colburns became a close-knit family.

Three members of the Shears/Colburn family L-R: John 'Jack' Shears; Elizabeth Shears; Clara Colburn (nee Shears). HP04534

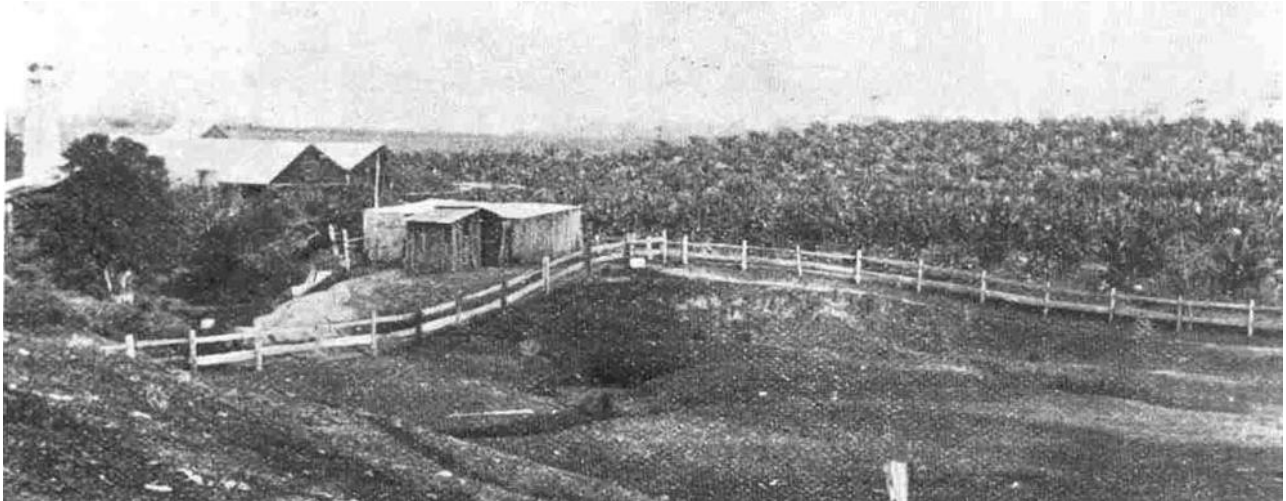


A gathering of the Shears/Colburn family, c1913

HP04533

The new state of Queensland was created in 1859. Brisbane businessman Johann Christian Heussler was appointed by the new Queensland Government to recruit German settlers for the new colony. In the following years, many Germans settled in Queensland, some fleeing conflict at home. Like the Carbrook area, Mount Cotton was settled mostly by people of German origins from the late 1860s. Some of the early families included Holzapfel, Benfer, Krause, Von Senden, and Stern. The Heinemanns settled first in Upper Tingalpa (Sheldon).

Eduard Heinemann later bought land in Mount Cotton and Redland Bay. Hans Heinemann and his son Henry lived next to Eduard at Upper Tingalpa and later moved to Mount Cotton. Heinemanns started the first sugar mill in the area and Henry was an active member of the Tingalpa Divisional Board for 11 years.



Mt Cotton sugar mill, 1902. It had closed in 1900

HP00188

Early settlers had to clear the land, which meant that timber needed to be cut; partly to build a home, and partly to open up pastures or agricultural land. Maize was the first crop grown and this was closely followed by sugar. Kanakas were brought in to work the sugar plantations from 1867 and this was a major industry until the late 1880s.

Phillip Benfer and his family initially worked for Eduard Heinemann and moved to Mount Cotton in the mid-1870s.

In 1876 Eduard Heinemann made some of his land on the north-west of the Broadwater Road - Mount Cotton Road intersection available for the building of the Upper Tingalpa Provisional School. It was built to replace a community school that had been built two years earlier on land near Tingalpa Creek in Capalaba (at what is now the southern end of the Howeston Golf Course, to the west of Willard's Farm). This first community school had opened in 1874 and was named the Tingalpa Bridge Provisional School, but it proved to be too far to walk for many children. However conflict arose amongst parents when the situation was reversed in 1876 and the Tingalpa Bridge students had to walk to Upper Tingalpa. In response, in 1880 the government opened the third school for the Capalaba region in Mount Cotton Road, on the corner of what was then named the School Road, situated about halfway between the two earlier schools.

The first church in the area was a Lutheran Church which was built on the corner of Wuduru Road and Mount Cotton Road and serviced the German communities of Gramzow and Mount Cotton. German Church Road was named after it.

Previously, the Mount Cotton families had travelled to Bethesda for church services. The first service at Mount Cotton was held under a tree on one of the farmers' properties. The new Mount Cotton church was built by hand by members of the community and it was dedicated as St Paul's in December 1875.

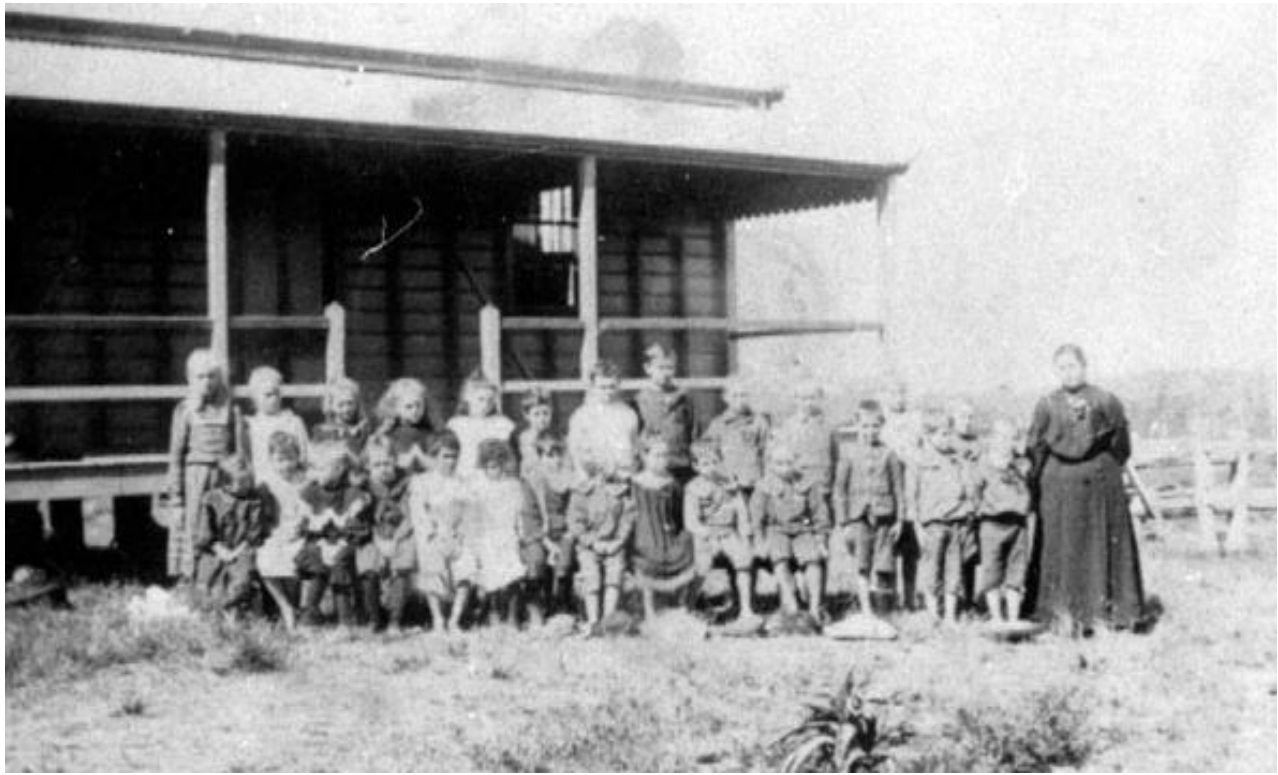


St Paul's Lutheran Church Mount Cotton, built in the Fachwerk style. Undated – however the shingle roof was replaced with an iron roof in the early 1920s, ahead of the church's 50th anniversary. The cemetery grew behind it. HP01203

Government schools in the area were hard to establish initially. Other than the short-lived Upper Tingalpa School, Carbrook was the first provisional school built in the area in 1877. Some German schools operated widely in the communities along the Logan River and at Mount Cotton.



Mount Cotton aerial. The 1951 St Paul's Lutheran Church is right of centre, the public hall far right. Mount Cotton School is in the foreground just right of centre. Helmut Quast's farm and employees' cottages are in left foreground. Irvin's farm is behind church, Adolph Benfer's Darwalla poultry farm is to left and Golden Cockerel abattoirs are on far left. Photographed in the mid-1960s HP01033



Mount Cotton School, c1900

HP00276

A half time school operated briefly in Mount Cotton from late in 1876 which was jointly run with the Victoria Point School. The Mount Cotton population was large enough by then to warrant a half-time school. The following year there were 12 boys and five girls on the roll. First conducted in a building originally built as a barn on the property of H Heinemann, this school serviced the area until a provisional school started in 1884.



Mount Cotton School, 1924

HP00295

Teachers 1876 – 1878 were paid £40 6s every 6 months:

30.10.76	Miller, John B	40	
1.1.77	Miller, John B.	40 6	
1.4.77	18 114	40 6	(Pro. 31 st)
1.7.77	Mussell, William		(Left 30 th)
13.2.78	Baird, Robt W	40 6	
1.7.78	" "	40 6	

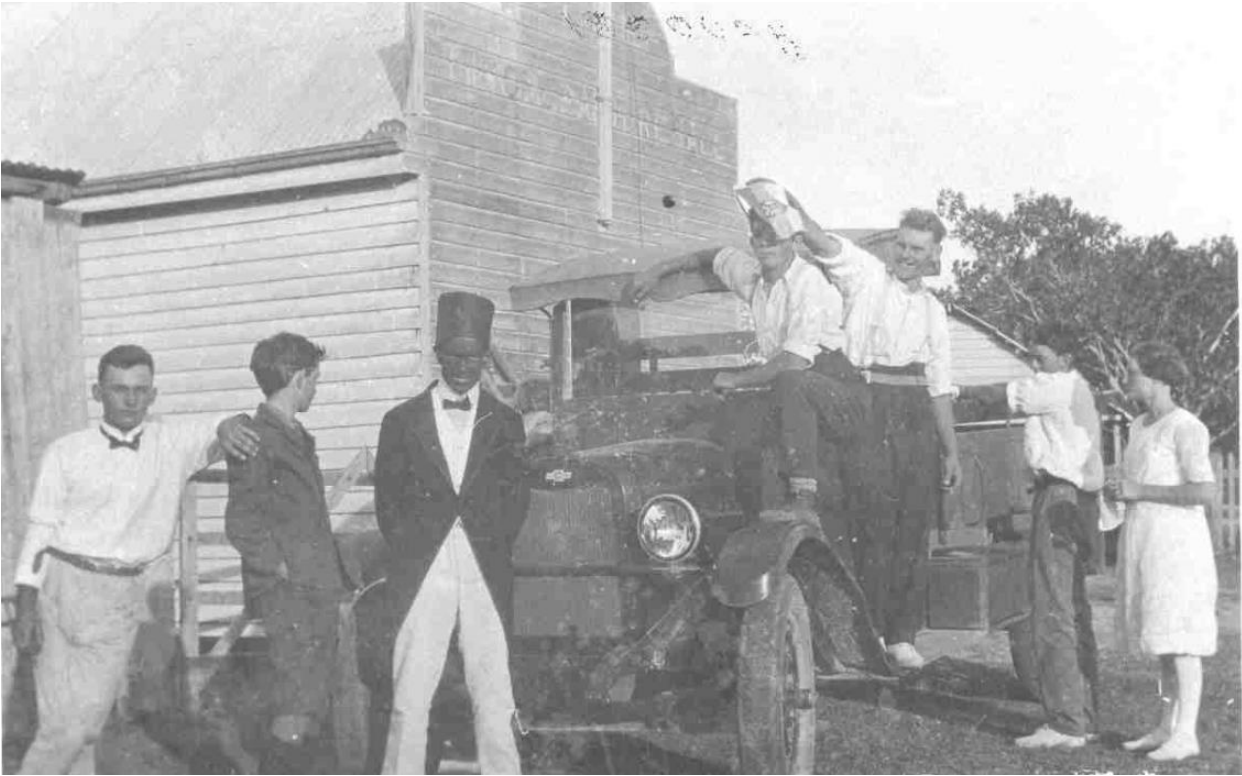
The first School Register entries 1876 – 1877 clearly show the predominance of German farming families in the Mount Cotton district.

Some of the children are older than those registered at other schools in our region.

Possibly the older children were enrolled to enhance their English language skills.

NO.	DATE OF ADMISSION.	PUPIL'S NAME.	AGE.		RESIDENCE.	OCCUPATION OF PARENT.	RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION.
			YES.	MTHS.			
1	30 th 1876	Benfer, Daniel	1	1	Mount Cotton	Farmer	Sutheran
2	"	Holzappel, Jacob	13	5	"	"	"
3	"	Mehrens, Friedr	13	2	"	"	"
4	"	<u>Dora</u>	11	4	"	"	"
5	"	<u>Maria A.</u>	7	11	"	"	"
6	"	Roatz, Charles	11	5	"	"	"
7	"	Berndt, Chas. F.	8	7	"	"	"
8	"	Kushoff, Tho	10	1	"	"	"
9	"	" Wm P.	8	4	"	"	"
10	"	Deitly	15	3	"	"	"
11	31 st Oct.	Heinemann, A.	18	7	"	"	"
12	"	Sommer, Rich	8	7	Lozau Grange	"	"
13	1 st Nov.	Holzappel, John	11	11	Mount Cotton	"	"
14	12 Dec.	Schneider, Peter	11	11	Lozau River	"	"
15	" 1877	<u>Margaret</u>	9	6	"	"	"
16	12 th Mar.	Heinemann, Johan	17	5	Mount Cotton	"	"
17	"	<u>Frederica</u>	15	3	"	"	"
18	19 1878	Roatz, <u>Ely Matt</u>	15		"	"	"

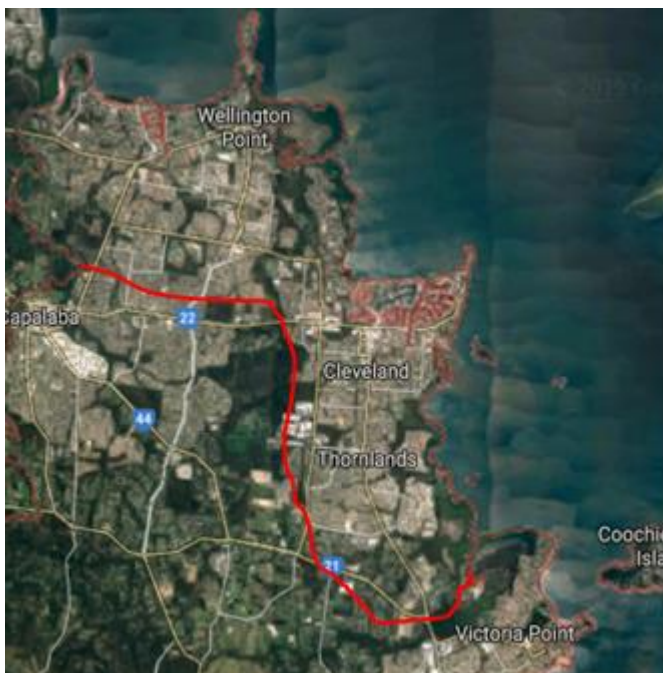
Local Government was established in 1880, soon after the Divisional Boards Act had come into effect in 1879. The Tingalpa Divisional Board covered the area that is now occupied by the whole Redland City plus areas of Brisbane City and Logan City. The board's office (Shire Hall) was located at Mount Cotton near the school, and its supply and equipment depot was beside the hall.



Mount Cotton residents preparing for a dance at the Tingalpa Shire Hall, 1930.

HP00890

Bananas were becoming a staple crop by 1880 and many Chinese people were involved in this industry until the turn of the century. In 1882 the first mail service to Mount Cotton was established, with the mail arriving via Beenleigh.



In 1885 the Cleveland Divisional board was established, and the areas along the north and east coastal strips from Tingalpa Creek in the north-west, to Eprapah Creek in the south-east were no longer part of the huge Tingalpa Shire.

The township of Cleveland was on Cleveland Point and the area around what is now the RSL precinct. Thornlands and Ormiston were still referred to as Cleveland (Ormiston became known as Cleveland West for a while).

The current Cleveland CBD was still referred to as Raby Bay into the 1960s, and at that time Alexandra Hills still didn't exist – Finucane Road had only recently been formed along an older rough track.

The railway to Cleveland was completed in 1889 and Mount Cotton residents were under the impression that the government intended to continue the line to Mount Cotton via Victoria Point and Redland Bay (shown by the red line in the map).



By 1920 a Royal Commission was held to look into the viability of an extension of the Cleveland line. It didn't happen.

Alternate proposals included a link with the Belmont Tramway or a new line linking Sunnybank with Mount Cotton.

All proposals aimed at improving transport of the produce of the farms in the area to markets both in Brisbane and in the southern states. New industries could also be established along the route, particularly timber and road building gravel if the Sunnybank to Mount Cotton route was chosen.

It didn't happen either.

By 1897 fruit had almost completely replaced sugar as the main crop in the district. This in turn led to an increase in the Fruit Bat population in the region, and Tingalpa Divisional Board declared that the Flying Foxes were vermin, and a threat to the farmers, so they put a 2d (2c) bounty on their heads in an effort to eradicate them.



A Flying Fox (Fruit Bat) shooting group, Redland Bay in 1914

HP00394

In 1901 the South Sea Island Labourers Act meant that Kanakas were to be deported back to their ancestral homes, though many chose to stay.

In 1902 the Divisional Boards were renamed Shire Councils, and that year a Mount Cotton resident asked the Tingalpa Shire Council to put a price on dingo scalps as they were a pest at that time.

Farmers and fruitgrowers numbered just over two dozen in the Mount Cotton district by 1906. The farmers realised the potential of passion fruit which they had been cultivating in a small way. It was easily grown and its flavoursome quality made it eagerly sought after on the Brisbane markets. Mount Cotton was one of the first localities to tap into the market for this fruit.

By the 1920s the excellent flavour of the fruit attracted the southern markets and by the 1930s there were 22 passionfruit growers and the bulk of their crop went to Sydney, the balance being distributed between Brisbane and Melbourne.



Mohr's passionfruit crop. In the distance Heinemann's farm, Tingalpa Shire Hall and Mount Cotton School, about 1920 HP01174

New industries in the early years of the 20th century included passionfruit, citrus, and mangoes which were used in chutney manufacturing, being sent to the Palms Chutney factory in Wellington Point. Dairying was also carried out with the cream being sent to the Kingston Butter Factory.

Proponents for the Sunnybank rail link had stressed the importance of access to Kingston.

In 1910 the population of the huge Tingalpa Shire was 1262 people: 665 males and 597 females, according to the Bureau of Statistics.

The Tingalpa Shire Council asked the PMG to extend the Cleveland-Redland Bay telephone line to Mount Cotton. This was approved in April 1911.

The telephone exchange is the small building near the church. HP01032



In 1913 following the random slaughter of black swans by the occupants of a motor boat on Moreton Bay, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals urged action by the Cleveland Shire Council. In response the Council passed a resolution to have the whole Shire declared a reserve for black swans under the provisions of the Native Birds Protection Act. The Tingalpa Shire was declared a similar reserve in 1914.

The Tingalpa Shire Council Chairman, Isaac Dennis, attended the launching of a stone crusher owned by the Sherwood Shire Council. He reported that it was capable of crushing gravel for 1s 3d (15c) compared with the current rate of 6s (60c) when done by hand.

The Tingalpa Shire Council passed a bylaw limiting the speed of automobiles and velocipedes to 12 mph (20 kph), except on corners and around railway stations, intersections of places of public gathering where the speed was 4 mph (6.5 kph).



Group of velocipede riders calling themselves the “League of Wheelmen” enjoying a break at Tingalpa Shire’s Capalaba Hotel in 1910. HP00848

Flying foxes and dingoes weren’t the only native species on the hunters’ hit list.



A truck loaded with koala skins in the 1920s during the cull.

HP01869

In 1927 the Queensland government followed south-eastern states and declared an open season on koalas in a bid to relieve the rural crisis. Koalas had been hunted for their skins for decades, with the skins sold as bear skin in the fashion houses of America, Europe and in Australia; the origin of the ‘koala bear’ misnomer. Skins sold for 4 or 5 pennies ((5c-6c) each, and slightly more for the thicker winter skins.

Although wildlife groups advised the government that the koala already neared extinction due to hunting, the slaughter went ahead, and the koala population was all but wiped out.

In Queensland alone it is estimated that by the time the 'cull' ended in 1928 around 10-12 million koalas had been killed for their fur. The following year the Nature Lovers' League asked the Tingalpa Shire Council to protect koalas in the shire. However hunting was only stopped after US President Hoover banned the import of koala skins into the US, the biggest customer. Hoover had apparently worked in the Australian gold fields in his younger days and was quite fond of koalas.

Passion fruit had now become the major crop at Mount Cotton and in 1931 the yield of the district was between 15,000 and 18,000 cases a year. Orders from Brisbane and southern markets were increasing each year so the growers had increased their cultivation. Growers were trading with Brisbane factories who supplied the heavy demand for the pulp for salads and drinks

In 1933 the district's first strawberry festival was held in the home of Bill Airey on Redland Bay Road near Coolnwynpin Creek to raise funds for the Capalaba School of Arts hall. The Festival was revived in October 1958 at Victoria Point, where it ran for a couple of years, but parking at the reserve proved too limited.

Adolph Benfer started a poultry farm in 1933.



Benfer's Darwalla poultry sheds, Mount Cotton, 1960s

HP01030

Mount Cotton residents rallied to build a new community hall during the depression years. Up until that time the Shire Hall had been used for social events in the district. The new public hall was built with timber logged by Daniel Benfer and was completed in 1930. The year after it opened, Tingalpa Shire Council called for tenders to paint the old Shire Hall, and in 1935 it was re-stumped. They continued to use the Shire Hall and depot for council business until the 1949 amalgamation. From 1947 the Tingalpa Shire Clerk worked out of a new office in Redland Bay, attending Mount Cotton Shire Hall meetings every month.



Daniel Benfer with his timber truck outside the Tingalpa Shire Hall and machinery shed, c1930s

HP01139



The new Mount Cotton Public Hall opened 15 November 1930. The guests watched 4-year old Joyce Krause present a bouquet of flowers to the dignitary's wife, 1930

HP01134

Electricity was connected to the district in 1936.

WWII saw Mount Cotton farmers enlisting in the military. Tingalpa Shire Council was asked to identify a suitable place for a military airstrip, and like all councils to set up their halls as emergency first aid centres, and to establish a process for advising next of kin when casualties occurred. Recycling centres were set up for the collection of rubber and aluminium, to be used in the production of military resources, and schools were asked to participate.

Arrangements were made for the evacuation of unaccompanied children and an air-raid trench was dug by the Mount Cotton School Committee on Mr Benfer's land, for use by school children if needed. Council supplied palings for the public to construct air-raid shelters. The Shell company educated people on how to make rot-proof sand-bags.

Windows and lights were blacked out at night. Straying stock created headaches in the dark. Councils were asked to make encouraging efforts to prevent loose talk and dangerous gossip, and to take down any directional signage and place-names. Throughout WWII Land Army Girls worked on farms in Tingalpa Shire.

By the end of 1944 the pressures of war were easing. Slit trenches in the district were filled in and blacking out removed. Trenches provided at the various parish halls in the district as air raid shelters had become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and committees of management notified they would be filled in and that blacking out of their halls could be removed.

Particulars of a government funded subsidy scheme to assist with carrying out post-war Relief work were forwarded to the two Shire Councils.

However, rationing of food and clothing continued for a few more years.

After having split from the Tingalpa Divisional Board (Shire Council) in 1885, the Cleveland Shire Council rejoined part of it in 1949, following Council amalgamations throughout Queensland. The eastern and south-eastern parts of Tingalpa Shire and the whole of the Cleveland Shire became the Redland Shire Council in July 1949. Tingalpa and Cleveland Shire Councils no longer existed. The rest of Tingalpa's regions - Burbank, Rochedale, Carbrook, Loganholme, Daisy Hill, Slacks Creek, Woodridge and Kingston became absorbed into the Brisbane and Logan Councils areas.

The first chairman of the new Redland Shire Council was JHN (Norm) Price, formerly the chairman of the Cleveland Shire Council. The main issue for the new council was the same as before: the endless building and maintenance of the district's roads, parks, jetties and foreshores.

In Mount Cotton, planning was underway for a new Lutheran Church in the 1940s. The old traditional German Fachwerk structure at the cemetery on Wuduru Road was in a state of disrepair.



Demolition of the old church was not a moment too soon. Shortly after this photograph was taken in 1951, during the demolition process, the building collapsed sending Fred and Alyn Holzapfel both to hospital. HP01137 HP01162



The Mount Cotton Cemetery at the corner of Wuduru and Mount Cotton Roads (near German Church Road) was photographed from the roof of the old church shortly before the building collapsed, 1951 HP01165

The new timber church was located opposite the school and officially opened on Palm Sunday 1951.



St Paul's Church dedication service, 1951

HP01161

In 1957 the Mount Cotton Progress Association asked Redland Shire Council for its own division but Council didn't support it.

During the 1940s and 50s a new industry began to develop in Mount Cotton. Adolph Benfer had started a poultry farm twenty years earlier, and by the 1950s he operated the biggest privately owned broiler enterprise in Australia. He set up an abattoir in Labrador in 1962 and then in Mount Cotton in 1966 and he processed chickens from the rapidly expanding number of poultry farms in the district. His business continued to grow and in 1977 he was awarded an MBE for services to the industry. At first called Darwalla, from 1972 the enterprise has operated under the name Golden Cockerel, still as part of the Darwalla Group, the largest Queensland owned poultry producer. It is one of Australia's largest privately owned poultry producers.

In 1972 the Mount Cotton Rural Fire Brigade was formed. In 1976 the Mount Cotton School celebrated its 100th anniversary, with 136 students enrolled that year.

Urban development in Mount Cotton was given a boost in the late 1970s with the Solar City project. Development of the estate began in July 1977 with site works and a solar demonstration house which was completed the following year. Houses in the estate were to have solar hot water. Originally called Cotton Fields, the estate has changed names over the years.

In 1980 Redland Shire Council met with the National Parks and Wildlife Service regarding turning Peel Island into a regional park. A similar scheme was put forward for Mount Cotton land next to Venman bushland reserve. Regional parks were a new concept designed to encourage nature-based recreation. They targeted areas that were not of a high enough standard for gazettal as a national park but still needed preserving with limited public access.

In 1998 Kristen Ashman wrote a book about Jack Venman's life, called *A tribute to Jack Venman: in honour of a true bushman*.



Venman Bushland National Park

Image by Ian Witheyman © Queensland Government



Venman Bushland National Park

Redland City Bulletin 26/12/2012

Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen officially opened the Mount Cotton Driver Training track on 18 February 1983, and it was primarily used by Police. In 1987 the Driver Training Wing moved from the Police Academy in Wacol to Mount Cotton.



Police cars and motorbikes try out the Mt Cotton Driver Training Track at the centre's opening in 1983.
Image courtesy of the Queensland Police Museum.



Two years later in 1985, the first blocks went on sale in the Bayview Country Estate in Mount Cotton with an average price of \$46,000.



Mayor Eddie Santagiuliana and longtime Mount Cotton resident Leonhard Benfer turning the sod on the site of the Bayview Village shopping centre at Bayview Country Estate.

HP07736 and HP07738

The Eprapah link wildlife corridor opened in 1990. It was a joint venture of the Scouting Association of Queensland and Redland Shire Council, the corridor was designed to provide safe passage for koalas between Eprapah wildlife sanctuary and the 100 hectare Karingal camping ground at the Mount Cotton headwaters of Eprapah Creek.



Karingal (meaning 'happy home') is managed by Scouts Queensland and it offers a range of outdoors and adventurous activities, with facilities on site to suit those looking for peace and tranquillity or action and adventure.

A bit of a hidden gem, accommodation there ranges from bush camping to bunk houses, RVs and vans, and can suit groups from 2 to 200.

Just a year later more than 1000 people attended a public meeting at Mount Cotton protesting against a proposed Brisbane-Gold Coast highway. Concerns were that a major road through the Shire would lead to the extinction of koalas through habitat destruction and road kills.



A VETO meeting "koalas not roads" at Mount Cotton, protesting against the proposed Eastern Tollway road, 1991. HP08788

In 1992 State Cabinet decided not to build the Brisbane-Gold Coast Toll Road through Redland Shire.

The re-purposed Mount Cotton Driver Training Centre was officially opened by State Transport Minister David Hamill in 1992 after the Police opened there own driver training site at the Wacol Academy. Training was now more widely available for training drivers of corporate vehicles and professional drivers, for vehicles of all sizes.

Commercial drivers learned new skills, including how to control a skid on the driver training skid pad (including the Mobile Library drivers).



A Greyhound Pioneer bus driver learns new skills at the Driver Training Centre in 1995

HP08453

The terrain in Mount Cotton created an ideal spot for hill climbs.



The Mount Cotton Hill Climb track, 1995

HP08451

25 years later it became the property of RACQ, renamed the RACQ Mobility Centre of Excellence, and its website states that *'currently offers premium real-world driver facilities and will also be developed into a world class facility for research, innovation, driver training and testing of connected and autonomous technologies – the first of its kind in Queensland'*.

Australia's first koala speed zones were trialled in parts of Cleveland, Ormiston, Birkdale, Capalaba and Mount Cotton from 1995.

Jack Burnett Venman aged 84, died leaving the Venman Reserve at Mount Cotton to the community as his legacy.

Mount Cotton and Sheldon residents formed a new protest movement in 1997 to fight increased air traffic noise over the Redlands. They claimed noise levels had increased tenfold since new flight paths were introduced late in 1996. (The opening of a second runway in 2020 has greatly alleviated this issue).

In 1999 an Australian wine company announced plans by entrepreneur Terry Morris to establish a \$10 million boutique winery and restaurant on a 216 hectare property at Mount Cotton. Sirromet (T E Morris spelled backwards) opened the following year.

Protests were won and lost: A proposal was put forward in 2007 to open a power plant, powered by chicken manure. Nine years later in 2016 Cleveland Power director David Bray called for tenders for the proposed biomass plant at Mount Cotton despite planning approval having lapsed on 21st September. In 2017 Cleveland Power announced it would take Redland City Council to court over its refusal to approve a 22 month extension to the planning approval. In 2018 the applications were formally ended.

Protests began a few years later against a Super Quarry, resulting from an extension to its existing quarry (begun in the 1960s) by the Barro Group. In 2019 Council lost an appeal against the expansion and Barro resumed work. Residents have not given up the fight against the quarry.

In 2014 the Mount Cotton Drama Group celebrated its 40th anniversary. The Mount Cotton IGA opened in January 2015 and in September that year, plans for the Rural Fire Brigade at Mount Cotton trigger heated political debate between MPs Matt McEachin and Don Brown.

2020 was the *annus horribilis* – a horrible year. On 31 December 2019 a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan China was soon identified as a novel (new) coronavirus, named Covid19. As 2020 dawned, unprecedented catastrophic bushfires were devastating widespread areas of Australia. Many had been burning since well before Christmas. At the same time, parts of north Queensland experienced flooding.

As the nation reeled and rallied behind people in the affected regions, cases of the Covid19 virus began to increase and then started to spread around the world, and it was finally declared a pandemic on 11 March.

Social/physical distancing, hand-washing and sanitizing, and restrictions on gatherings in public places gained momentum. By the end of March places that regularly had crowds of people including libraries, galleries, tourist destinations, theatres etc were closed, and people were asked to stay at home except for essential travel or exercise. National and state borders closed. Locally, in addition to many public places, North Stradbroke Island was closed to non-residents for all but essential travel. Controversy arose as some people who owned island holiday homes changed their Drivers Licence addresses in an effort to spend isolation (and Easter) on the island.



Job and income losses created enormous stress, coupled with isolation from usual family and support networks.

Acts of kindness and humour created some relief.

A costumed dog-walker in Cleveland each day became a highlight on social media.

Rural Press images



In the midst of Covid19 isolation and social distancing, on 28 March 2020 Local Government Election proceeded, with some voters protesting by choosing either not to vote, or to cast an informal vote. Many others had voted early or voted by post. Counting and results were delayed because of social distancing combined with a computer malfunction, and by mid-April only around 80-85% of votes had been tallied.

On July 13 2020 a Redlands man was the first person to be injected with a trial vaccine for the Covid19 virus.

Just a few days later a surge in cases appeared in Victoria, with numbers far greater than in the initial outbreaks. Queensland borders became closed to Victorian residents, and to NSW residents living in identified 'hot-spots', before closing to the whole of NSW.

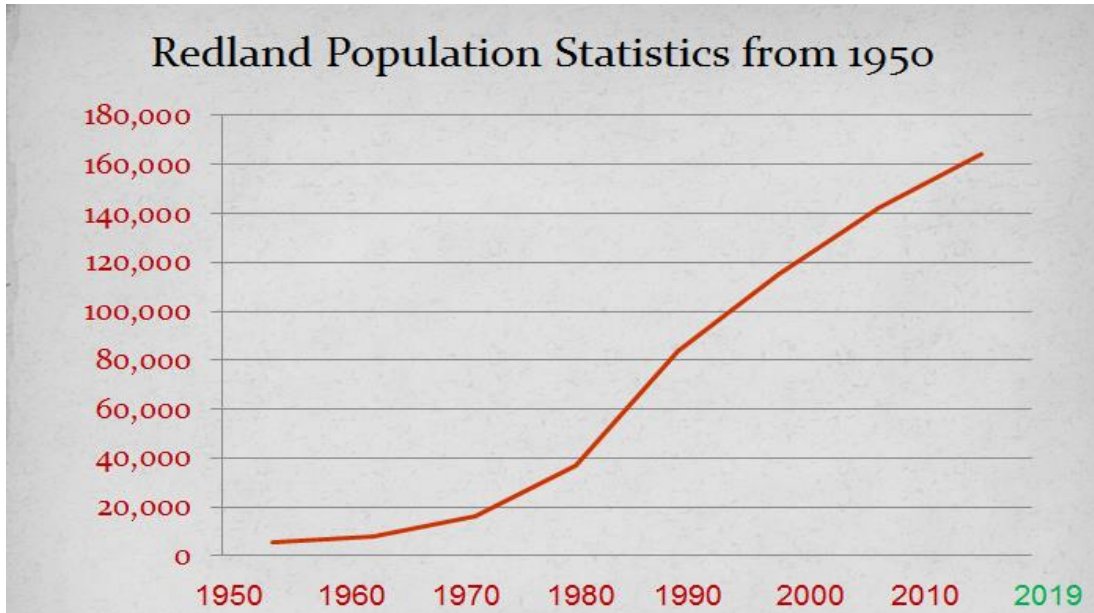
Locally we could just hope that restrictions would keep Queensland safe. Financially the country was now considered to be heading for a depression greater than that of 100 years earlier.

2021 started on a scary note, when Redland City was included in a snap, precautionary 3-day lockdown on January 9-11, with mask-wearing remaining mandatory in shops, hospitals/aged care, churches, libraries, cinemas, art galleries, gyms etc until 22 January.

At the end of February 2021 a new Queensland QR Code and App were introduced, making check-ins much faster and simpler at venues where contract tracing was a requirement.

Why did the population of the Redland Shire start to boom?

Up until 1970, growth in the Redlands had been slow and steady, and then it boomed. There had been no new schools opened since 1916, until Cleveland High School opened 44 years later in 1962. The next primary school, Alexandra Hills, didn't open until 1975. That was the start of a boom, during which time 26 new schools have opened, giving us a total of 37 schools.



So what had happened to trigger this rapid growth?

- We had a permanent water supply after the Leslie Harrison Dam was built (**1968**).
- Sewerage resolved the many drainage problems that had existed throughout the Shire, and which had been preventing high-density development (**1976**).
- A four-lane road was built between Capalaba and Brisbane (**1982**) then extended to Cleveland (**1988**) making a daily commute much faster, and the Redlands became an attractive prospect for those wishing to live outside of the city, while still being able to work there.
- The trains returned (**1986**) which added another option for commuters.
- The Commonwealth Games (**1982**) and Expo 88 (**1988**) brought many visitors to the area along the new fast roads, and many stayed or came back later to live in the Redlands.
- As farmland was developed, the infrastructure that had existed to ensure produce reached markets in prime condition had started to disintegrate; this in turn made it harder for the remaining farms to sustain their viability, and so the temptation to sell to developers became harder for farmers to resist as the demand for housing increased.



Mount Cotton Estate Winery, 2000 (later renamed Sirromet)

HP08441

Logan City Council Libraries

Timber-getters' camp



FILE: 001\001205
TITLE: Timber-getters' camp
ACCESS: 8;
DATE: 1920s
LOCATION: Mt. Cotton
SOURCE: Doug Floate
NEGNUMB: 33 Sheet B
SUBJECT: Mullins family\Howcroft family\Mt. Cotton\Slacks Creek\Tree-fellers
NOTES: Vi Howcroft married timbergetter Alec Mullins, who was often away for weeks at a time. Vi and family would often visit. Alec, Grandma Howcroft, Vi, Duncan, Sid and Lily Floate (nee Howcroft)
COPYRIGHT: Doug Floate



Albert Benfer
inside one of
his chicken
sheds, Seaview
Road Mount
Cotton, 2000

HP08932



Scout 'Jamboringal' at Mount Cotton, 1991

HP09137



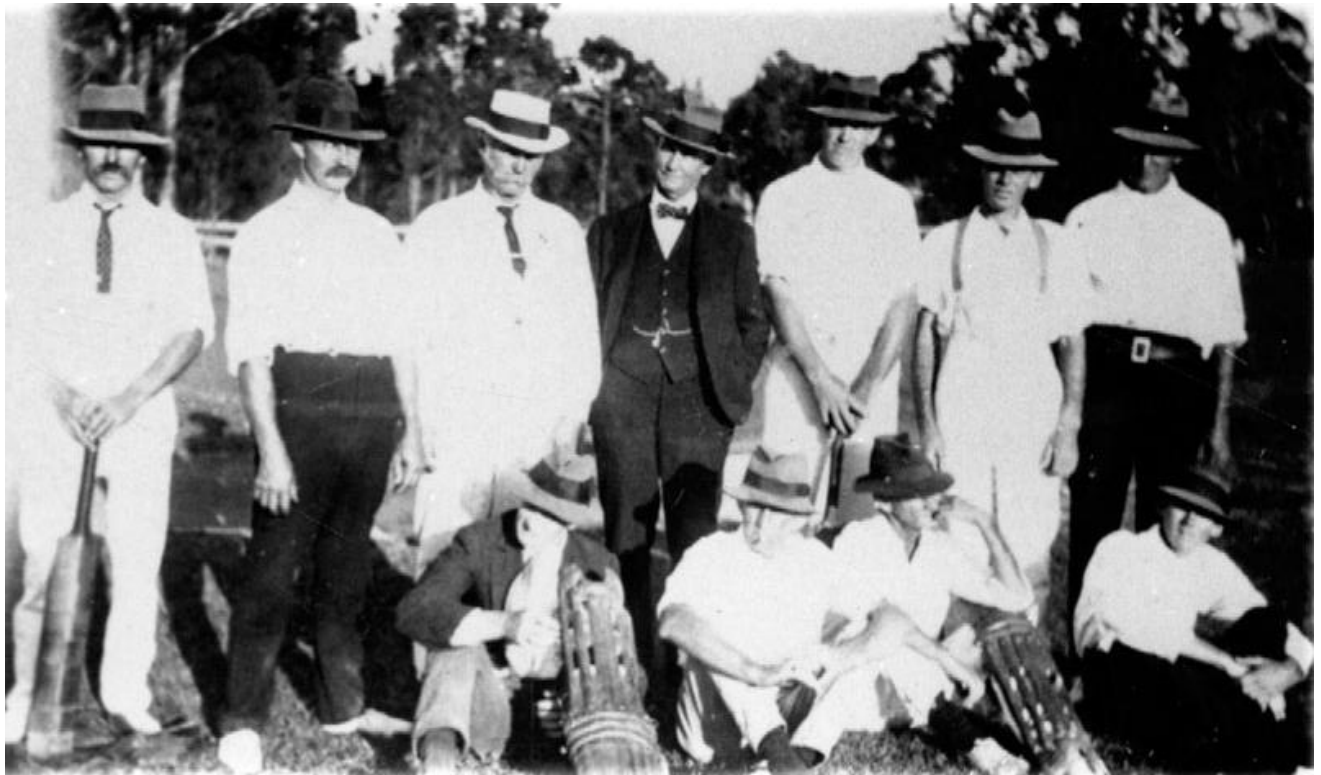
On the skid pad at the Mount Cotton Driver Training Centre, 1998

HP09181



Bayview Shopping Village, 1999

HP09293



Mount Cotton cricket team, 1923

HP00294

THROWN FROM HORSE WHILE MUSTERING

DOG BRINGS MEN TO SCENE OF ACCIDENT.

Mr Dennis O'Hara Burke, aged 39, farmer, of Mount Cotton (Q.), died in hospital on Monday from a fractured skull as the result of being thrown from his horse while mustering in heavily timbered country, between Broadwater and Mt. Cotton on Monday. He lay unconscious for an hour before being found by his companions, who were brought to the scene by the strange behaviour of the injured man's dog. The animal raced through the bush several miles to the place where other musters were at work and by barking and dashing backwards and forwards into the bush, induced them to follow him to where Burke was lying.

The ambulance had a difficult drive through the rough country. The injured man had to be carried half a mile through the bush to the ambulance waggon.

Singleton Argus 1 July 1936

From Wikipedia:

John Philip Goleby (22 March 1935 - 10 September 1985) was a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly.[1]

Biography

Goleby was born in Cleveland, Queensland, the son of Philip Eric Goleby and his wife Carolena Amelia (née Holzapfel), [1] and lived in the area all his life. [2] He was educated at Mount Cotton and Thornlands state schools before attending Wynnum High School and, after finishing his education, worked on the family farm at Thornlands. He later bought a property at Mount Cotton and continued his farming career. [1]

On the 14 April 1956, he married Margery Day and they had a son and a daughter. Margery died in 1979 and in December 1980, he married Betty Lind. Goleby died in a tractor accident on his Mount Cotton farm in September 1985 and was accorded a state funeral, which proceeded from the Cleveland Uniting Church [1] to the Cleveland Cemetery. [3]

Public career

Goleby was a councillor on the Redland Shire Council from 1961 until 1980, and during that time was chairman of the Finance and Works Committee from 1967 until 1975, and then chairman of the Works Committee from 1975 to 1978.[1]

In 1974, he successfully stood as the Country Party candidate for the seat of Redlands and represented the electorate until his death in 1985. From 6 December 1982 until 10 September 1985, he was the Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services.[1]

References

[^] "Former Members". *Parliament of Queensland*. 2015. Retrieved 12 June 2016.

[^] Motion of Condolence — Hansard. Retrieved 12 June 2016.

[^] John Phillip Goleby — Find A Grave. Retrieved 12 June 2016.

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Queensland State Archives
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Historical Title Deeds
Post Office directories
Ancestry Library edition
Redland City Council Cemeteries Register
Queensland Heritage Register
Queensland Government historical maps and aerial imagery
Other sources as noted in document

The document has been prepared for general reading rather than as an academic document. For that reason, referencing has not been included in it.

However, all research has been thoroughly and diligently undertaken to academic standards by using primary sources as much as possible; existing academic papers, theses, and books; and by cross-checking information across more than one source. Personal recollections from memoirs or Oral Histories have all been cross-checked against historical records unless otherwise stated.

Detailed references are available on request.

Names and places, and language:

Names, places and language have been included as recorded in their original context. While every effort has been made to avoid offensive material, historical records reflect the norm that existed at that time, and it is important that they are reproduced truthfully.

Aboriginal Place names are acknowledged:

Cullen Cullen	- Wellington Point, Birkdale & Thorneside
Erobin	- King Island
Nandeebie or Indillie	- Cleveland, Thornlands, Ormiston, Alexandra Hills
Doobawah	- Raby Bay
Quandamooka	- Moreton Bay
Kapallaba	- Capalaba
Joonggabbin	- Sheldon
Jungalpin or Tungipin	- Mount Cotton
Talwalpin	- Redland Bay
Warrer Warrer	- Victoria Point
Eprapa	- Pinklands
Minjerribah	- Stradbroke Island
Canaipa	- Russell Island
Jencoomercha	- Macleay Island
Goochie mudlo	- Coochiemudlo Island
Ngudooroo	- Lamb Island
Tindappah	- Garden Island
Teerk Roo Ra	- Peel Island
Noogoon	- St Helena Island
Milwarpin	- Green Island
Mubanbila	- Bird Island
Guwawanewa	- Goat Island
Perulpa	- Perulpa Island
Karragarra	- Karragarra Island
Mulgumpin	- Moreton Island
Pulan	- Amity Point
Mooloombah	- Point Lookout
Goompi	- Dunwich
Karboora	- Blue Lake
Bummiera	- Brown Lake

To find more information about some of the stories included in this timeline, search in the library catalogue via the [Local History](#) link or by clicking on the **Libraries** or **Discover Redlands Coast** link on the Redland City Council website <https://www.redland.qld.gov.au> and following the links to Local History.