

Family Ties

The Journal of the Bundaberg Genealogical Association Inc

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Tuesday	12:00 pm. - 2:30 pm.
Wednesday	10:00 am. - 12:30 pm
3 rd Thursday	10.00 am – 12.30
Saturday	1:00 pm. - 4:00 pm.

Meeting Times (Note the meeting changes)

General Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the **even months** at the Library building in Kendall's Road, commencing at 1.00pm.

WE'VE GOT IT COVERED.

You may find errors in this publication. This is in line with our policy of trying to please everyone- especially those who love to find a mistake

Journal published March, June, September & December.

Web Page <https://www.bga.org.au>

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Presidents Report

Our Annual meeting is 13th June with a General meeting at 1pm.

Nominations will be needed for our executive. Must be in the hands of the secretary 5 days prior.

A launch of our Drinan book which is on the Hall, School and Residents with newspapers items and photos will be held on 19th September 2026 at Drinan Hall starting at 1.30 pm. An afternoon tea will be provided. We have spoken to former and present day residents and have researched Government Gazette of the Canegrowers. A cake will be cut in honour of it being 100 years since hall was built and school commenced. I thank Chris Dunstan, Maureen Baxter and Kris Dinsdale for their research of newspapers and residents and typing up the stories.

Competitions for August Longest Christian or Surname

October Baby photos of members for you to guess their identify

Rhonda

TIRROAN - WATAWA PLANTATION

Bundaberg News and Mail dated July 21st, 1926

Reviews of district progress from the note-book of the "News and Mail's Rural envoy travelling the Bundaberg hinterland

Established in the year 1893, and still going strong, is one of the landmarks of the district, popularly recognised and referred to as Watawa Plantation. With that keen acumen and business foresight that has marked their ventures in life, the founders of Watawa Plantation, Messrs. Gibson and Howes, with a view to encouraging the cane growing industry in these districts, secured vast tracts of scrub and forest lands at Watawa.

Many acres of these areas were leased on royalty terms to the early comers to the district, and thus laid the foundation of a settlement that has in the meantime evolved into the progressive township of Tirroan. Those early settlers who acquired their farms under lease from Messrs. Gibson and Howes, have prospered under the conditions submitted by the vendors and doubtless the measure of prosperity achieved has benefited mutually, both parties to the transactions.

Vast areas of the original plantation have been made freehold by the farmers, who started out in the cane growing industry on royalty and leasehold conditions of such reasonable terms that allowed for a sufficient margin for the tenant, to enable him to secure a fair return for his labours. In those days it meant labour too, as the lands had all to be cleared by the tenant of their virgin timbers before a crop could be planted.

Much Cultivation

In the meantime, Messrs. Gibson and Howes cultivated much of their own property and grew extensive areas of cane, which was railed to Bingera for treatment. This cultivation has been sustained right up to the present day. Of these areas there are at present about 400 acres under crop and ready for cane, with fully 50 acres of cleared land lying fallow. The plantation has been since its inception, and is today, under the management of Mr. W. McDonald.

During his years of experience Mr. McDonald has seen many changes in the vicissitudes of the cane industry, but still the pleasing personality of the genial Mac, has not altered one iota, and his popularity is as ever on the upgrade.

Owing to the adverse seasonal conditions experienced this year, it is estimated that the whole area comprising the old plantation areas as well, will not produce more than 3,000 tons of cane for the forthcoming crushing.

The plantation hands are now busy preparing about 60 acres for planting this spring. During its life of cultivation the plantation has grown many varieties of cane.

Popular Cane Choice

The popular varieties at present grown are 1900 Seedling, Q 813, Q 855, N.G. 148, with Black Innes doing well on the flat areas. D. 1135 has always grown well on the hills, but nowadays is not holding out as well as some of the newer varieties. Still the growers are of the opinion that with the introduction of fresh plants grown on newer areas this variety would revive.

The plantation homestead, a familiar spot in the district is now supervised by Mr. and Mrs R. J. Smythe. Adjoining are the yards, sheds and stables, all commodious and serviceable for their district requirements. The plantation lands also carry a fair number of cattle - at present there are about 70 head of mixed stock on pasture.

Employee Now Owner

In a cottage about three parts of a mile from the homestead dwell Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Braund, the former employee of many years standing on the plantation. Surrounding his home Mr. Braund has a nice kitchen garden at present showing a profusion of all classes of vegetables the quality of which are silent testimony to the fertility of the soil, for mixed farming.

Continuing, we come to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. M. Savage. This family were members of the early migrant band of settlers who came from Laidley 32 years ago. Like his fellow passengers, Mr. Savage took up an area of scrub land and by dint of hard work, cheerfully entered upon, he overcame the early clearing difficulties and soon had a crop of cane planted. Since then he has followed the industry, and apparently prospered. Two sons. W. and H. Savage are now on farms of their own in the district.

The Cannifords' Arrival

On the 4th March, 1894, Mr. E. Canniford arrived in Bundaberg by the s.s. Lady Musgrave, en route from Laidley to Watawa. On arrival at his destination, one of a party of twelve, a welcome was accorded them by the elements of nature, as rain simply teemed down as they landed from the train. On settling, Mr. E. Canniford took up 20 acres of Messrs. Gibson and Howes scrub land, and entered upon the arduous work of clearing, previous to cultivation. The areas were thickly timbered with small pine, flandusia, vine scrub and milkwood abounding. The latter was always a source of annoyance, causing an irritation of the eyes.

The larger class of pine had been earlier cut out from the scrub; but after cutting and lumping the standing scrub, burning off was a comparatively easy task, as the flandusia proved to be a good burning timber. The first crop of cane was planted with the grubber, and in the early stages, hard work was their main reward. For the first harvested crop the price realised was 9/6 per ton, less royalty 1/- per ton, and tram fees 6d. per ton, the crop being sent to Bingera Mill for treatment.

Freehold in Seven Years

After about seven years he made his farm freehold, then took up an adjoining area of 20 acres for cane growing purposes, later on acquiring a 50 acre pastoral holding. At the present time he has 40 acres under plough, with 24 acres under cane. On the crest of a hill, which is too highly

elevated for cane growing, he has an orchard carrying citrus trees and pineapples. The latter have done so well, he contemplates planting more in the near future.

Residing near the main township with his wife and family of five sons, Mr. Canniford has seen many changes in the district since its earliest days. Remains of his first dwelling which was constructed out of hand split pine timber, cut from the scrub lands, still are standing.

This little dwelling was erected by Mr. Canniford in the early days of his settlement. Adjoining his dwelling there is a garden in which there is a wide range in variety of vegetation, including fine specimens of cabbage, cauliflowers, carrots, peas, beans and the like, even to strawberries and grapes. Bananas have been grown but of late have not thrived. In conjunction with the cultivation of cane, mixed farming generally has been persevered with, maize and potatoes always doing well.

As a fertiliser he has grown cow pea crops for many years, the serviceability of which cannot be questioned. In varieties of cane grown he has found 1900 Seedling to be the best since Demerara went out of favour.

Pioneer of Local Show

Canniford has always taken an active part in all public movements. His activities as a member of the Gin Gin Show Committee date back to the inception of this Society. Personally, he helped to erect the Show shed on a site near the racecourse; this shed was subsequently moved into Gin Gin, and is still in use on the show grounds there. For fifteen consecutive years, he acted as grand stand steward for the Gin Gin A.P. and I. Society and for many years was a consistent exhibitor of farm produce in the show sections and has many awards to his credit as a successful grower of a wide range of agricultural products.

Once of the first settlers in the Tirroan and Watawa districts, is Mr. W.R. Kitching, who though celebrating his seventy fifth birthday on the 7th July last, is still a hale, hearty and active member of the society. To the stranger, Mr. Kitching would appear to be about in the mid fifties, and he ascribes his retention of his virility to the fact that he has always had to work hard, enjoying the open air freshness that is associated with farm life. First seeing the light of day in Yorkshire, England, Mr. Kitching's early boyhood days were not marked with any scholastic training. On the other hand, premature association with the life of the "jolly farmer boy" served to inculcate an intimate knowledge of the rural profession of farming that he now claims has served him in good stead in carving his way to that pinnacle of affluence, that today serves him as a rock anchor of safety, in which he can sit back and proudly proclaim that "all that I have I have worked for".

A Man from Yorkshire

Arriving in Queensland in the year of 1887 (a notable year in English history, being the culmination of the late Queen Victoria's fiftieth year reign, and which was celebrated throughout the Empire with the wildest enthusiasm and loyal fervour), Mr. Kitching went to Grandchester on a three months' agreement as farm hand.

Much to his surprise he found that the rate of pay offered was less than what he has receiving before leaving his homeland. Not being too enamoured with the conditions of his surroundings,

he then entered into the employ of Mr. Alex Hunter, a farmer at Laidley Creek. In this his second venture in his new country, his value as a most competent farm hand was appreciated, as well as being recognised, and a few years later he became a half share partner in a farm in those areas.

In the year 1894, he formed one of the band of Laidley farmers, who came across to Watawa, whose advent has since meant so much to the advancement and progress of the district. On arrival in Watawa, he leased 40 acres from Messrs. Gibson and Howes. These areas carrying their virgin scrub timbers, had to be all cleared before any thought of cultivation could be seriously considered. After a time, his serious problem was finally surmounted, and the industry of cane cultivation entered upon with methods though primitive in the extreme, were productive of a harvest, though perhaps not golden in gain, realised for the toiler the golden pleasure that only pride in effort can every attain.

The Kitching Farm Grew.

Under the direction of Kitching Senior, the firm of Kitching and Sons soon grew to affluence as cane suppliers to the Bingera Mill and further areas of land of these fertile lands were extensively cultivated. Upon to the year 1914 this firm of cane growers prospered, when the company was dissolved and each member automatically entered upon other avenues of enterprise. In addition to cane growing, Mr. Kitching had tried mixed farming including maize, potatoes, lucerne etc.

Comparing the Watawa lands with those of the far famed Laidley areas for the successful cultivation of lucerne, Mr. Kitching whose experience with lucerne growing extended over a term of seven years at Laidley, said that Watawa compared more than favourably. In one year his crop of lucerne from a four acre block at Watawa practically saved a serious financial situation.

Now living in retirement, Mr. Kitching's most favoured form of recreation is to take on a half day's ploughing and he finds it hard to definitely place aside the bow-yangs and the dungarees in preference to the garb that his state of affluence would more adequately warrant.

The Kitching Family

Mr. Kitching's family of four sons have been well known and esteemed members of the community since their arrival in the district. The only daughter was married to Mr. W. Rieck, the well known farmer of Maroondan, but passed away at an early age in August of the year 1909. This period was a particularly sad one in the life of Mr. Kitching, as his good wife and helpmate was laid to rest a few weeks following the death of their daughter.

Once of the pioneers in the opening up of the district and one of the earliest to enter upon the cultivation of cane, which since has been the staple product of the locality, Mr. Kitching has at all times set a good example to all, by his assiduous attention to the efforts demanded in working a farm to success, at the same time gaining the highest measure of esteem by virtue of his upright demeanour and straight forward dealings on all occasions.

Overlooking the Township

Proceeding onwards, we came to the farm of Mr. P. Simonsen. His dwelling situated on the hillside, occupies a commanding position overlooking the greater part of the township. In the year 1900 Mr. Simonsen entered upon the industry of cane farming in the district, taking up a farm of 54 acres. Of these areas 36 acres are under cultivation and about 12 fallow.

During his term of farming Mr. Simonsen has gone in for mixed farming on a more extensive scale than the average cane grower. His crops of maize and potatoes have at times been fairly large, if at times not too remunerative ones. In this respect he recalled the occasion on which he realised only 3 pound 10 shillings per ton for potatoes and 1/3d per bushel for maize.

That year he harvested 80 bags from four acres. How different to the ruling prices of today for these commodities. He regards the season of 1921 as the best he has experience for cane. The varieties that have served him best are Demerara, D. 1135 and 1900 Seedling, though he has had Black Innes varieties.

Nestling Among Hills.

Nestling amongst the hills with a view only of cane and farm lands on all sides is the residence of Mr. Harold Savage, with his farm lands abutting thereon. A son of the early settlers from Laidley, Mr. and Mrs. M. Savage. Harold has been practically reared on cane, that is, the sweet variety, not that favoured by the average pedagogue.

His practical experience of cane culture covers a period of 32 years during the past twenty years he has been farming on his own account. For fourteen years he held a leasehold block on the black soil areas and about six years after entered upon possession of his present holding. This farm contains 74 acres, all cleared and available for crops, and at one time formed part of Messrs. Gibson and Howes original plantation.

In the garden surrounding his home Mr. Savage has a good display of vegetable products embracing a wide range of varieties as well as a nice garden of choice flowers. Nearby is a block of standover Black Innes cane, which is showing a good length of stalk, and is perhaps as good a sample of forward cane as met with this season.

The Best Cane Kinds.

The farm lands are in the main highland, with red soil of varying quality. The ratoons generally are poor, this though is a general state of affairs throughout owing to the dry conditions experienced in the early part of the season. The best all round variety of cane grown is 1900 Seedling, with D. 1135 good on the hills and Q. 813 a variety that is coming into better favour. Another brother, Mr. W. Savage, has a freehold farm of 40 acres, on which he also has a good cane cultivation. Like his brother his life practically has been devoted to cane culture and his knowledge of the industry most profound.

Like some of his neighbouring farmers, he finds that owing to the poor growing season experienced that the harvesting prospects are not too alluring this year, and at the time being is

engaged at a class of work that ensures an income of at least a regular weekly wage. Mr. W. Savage has a comfortable residence adjoining the main Tirroan road.

Memories of St. Kilda.

At other places of call, namely Mr. Herb Maynard and Mr. W. Lewis, I was disappointed at finding no one at home, but understand that both of these farmers are away at work in another quarter.

On the crest of the hills of St. Kilda is the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. Trulson and family. This abode commands a wonderful view on all sides with the cleared areas of cultivation nesting in the foreground and sweeping upwards to the hill tops with rows and rows of hills in succession extending away as far as the eye can see, with neat dwellings breaking the monotony of the cultivated areas. For nineteen years Mr. and Mrs. Trulson have occupied this site, having at that time taken up a selection of 160 acres. Of this, 40 acres are under cultivation, cane has been the staple products but dairying and pig raising have at the same time engaged attention. As a speciality, Mr. Trulson has engaged in the culture of millet with more than passing success and also has for a number of years manufactured brooms from the millet grown by him.

"Thorough" Farming.

His farm equipment is very thorough and all phases of industry entered upon are carried through with every attention to detail. During their residence locally Mr. and Mrs. Trulson and family have done much towards the social uplifting of the life of the community and on all hands enjoy the highest measure of esteem and respect.

The township of Tirroan is within the province of the Kolan Shire Council and at the present time much attention is being bestowed on the roads in the district. At one time the Tirroan roads were in a sense historical on account of their impassability. They are now likely to still retain that term the historical but in a widely different sense.

The road party under Ganger L. Dettrick are now engaged in rebuilding 17 chains of roadway, which when finished will provide a highly serviceable highway. This work is being done by the Kolan Shire Council and forms part of the loan works they have in hand.

Mr. W.J. Reinhold, B.E., inspecting engineer of the Main Roads Board, speaks in terms of highest praise of this length of roadway, which he claims to be one of the best in Queensland built under Council control. Other portions of the Tirroan roads have been graded and metalled and the township is now well served in this respect.

NEW ITEMS

While unloading at Wallaville

Brisbane Thursday _ The Railway Commissioner was advised today that Ronald Irvine, a young man, was killed at Wallaville, near Bundaberg today. He was employed in the State Forest Service as a timber hauler (Warwick Daily News 23rd April 1926)

NEW ITEMS

NEWSY BITS Bundaberg Daily News Maily 20th March 1930

From' kiddies' Korner

Letters.

These are newsy extracts from some of Aunt Bundy's letters in the Kiddies Korner this week:-

DRINAN DOINGS.

(by- Ellen- Beyer)

Mr and Mrs. Kuhn and son, Lenny, are spending a holiday at the Burnett heads.

Mrs. Harry Sondergeld is an inmate in the Gin. Gin Hospital.

Mr. F. Kieck. is spending the weekend in town.

There was a swimming contest on Sunday, at Wallaville.

Church services were held in the hall last Thursday, the Minister was the Rev. Mr. Hewsen.

A shower of rain is needed again for the gardens and the farms.

The saw mill is kept busy. Horse and bullock teams are bringing logs in every day.

Whooping cough has visited us again, several children being kept home from school.

School Reopens Wallaville

Bundaberg News Mail 9th February 1950

The Wallaville State School re-opened last Tuesday with a few new faces. The children welcomed a new assistant mistress. Miss B Stockwell who took the place of Miss M Pashley transferred to Byrnestown

Four of the candidates from the school recently sat for the scholarship were successful. They were Lois Stengord, Carla Brand, John Dammash and Eddy Salloom.

Twin Boys Born Two Days Apart

Daily Mirror Sydney 2nd May 1946

Newcastle. Thursday. – Twin boys born to Mrs T Troughear, of Cardiff, were separated by two days and four hours. The first arrived at 8.0 am on Saturday and the second on Monday afternoon.

A Newcastle gynaecologist said today it was most unusual. He could not recall a similar previous case in Newcastle.

Nurses at the hospital reported that both mother and babies are well. The father of the twins is a member of the merchant Navy.

Wedding

Bundaberg Daily News and Mail 4th October 1941

Ferguson-Claxton

Sydney will be the home of Miss Alison B Claxton and Radio-Officer John D Ferguson, of the Mercantile Marine who were married in St Luke's Church of England, Ekibin, Brisbane, on September, on September 27, by Rev M E de Griffith.

The bride, who is the youngest daughter of Mrs M Claxton of Tirroan, and the late Mr G Claxton, was given away by her cousin, Mr F M Hardacre.

With her love-in-the-mist, blue riptide frock she wore navy accessories and pinned a spray of panies to her handbag. She carried a prayer book belonging to her aunt, Mrs H F Hardacre.

The bridegroom is a son of Mrs Troughear of Drinan, and the late R Ferguson, England. After the reception which was held at Rowe's Café, the couple spent their honeymoon in Southport. They left on Thursday for Sydney by plane.

Coral Margaret Horwood

Coral Margaret Horwood, aged five, the elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J A Horwood, Coona Creek, died in the Bundaberg General Hospital early yesterday morning after a lengthy illness. She was born in Gin Gin. The funeral moved from F C Brown and Co's funeral parlour at 3.30 pm yesterday and was largely attended. Doves were placed on the grave from: Unlce Fred, Aunt Carry and family: Mumie, Daddie and Gloria; Mr H A W Lucke and family; Wreaths by Grandma; Nell and family; Mrs Munckton and family; Carl and Leila; Perc and Thelma; George, Grace and family; Uncle Jack and Aunt Ivy, Betty and Arnold; Mr and Mrs Hall and family. The funeral directors were F C Brown and Co (Bundaberg Daily News Mail 31st January 1941)

Mr Peter Christensen

Mr Peter Christensen, a resident of Bundaberg for 60 years, died late yesterday afternoon at his residence, Alexander Street, East Bundaberg, aged 81. He was born at Horniherre, Denmark, on May 22, 1859. At the age of 19 he came to Queensland in the sailing ship Charles Dickens, which left Hamburg on November 6, 1878, and landed at Rockhampton I March the following year.

He then came on to Bundaberg in the coastal steamer Lady Bowen and joined his three brothers, John, James and Andrew, who had arrived from Denmark seven years previously and engaged in farming in the Woongarra, then dene vine scrub. He engaged in farm work and assisted with the planting of the first cane n Windermere and other plantations in the Woongarra. His three brothers died many years ago.

Mr Christensen was married in Bundaberg on March 17, 1882, to Miss Nellie Clark, a native of Maryborough by Rev W Bray, Minister of the Methodist Church. They celebrated the anniversary of their golden wedding on March 17, 1932, and they were looking forward to the diamond jubilee of their wedded life next year. Mr Christensen is survived by a widow, and

family of two daughters, Mesdames J H Overden (Perth) and W L Price (Birthamba), and five sons Messrs William James (Perth), Robert Cecil (Perth), John, Herbert and Sydney (Bundaberg). There are 21 grand-children and 12 great grand children. There are four generations to the Christensen family, Mr A J Christensen of Kalkie is a nephew and Mrs J Jorgensen senr., West Bundaberg, a cousin.

The funeral takes place this afternoon the arrangements being in the hands of Garland and Son (Bundaberg Daily News Mail 1st February 1941)

Mr Edward Morgan

The dead body of Mr Edward Morgan, a patient at the Bundaberg General Hospital, was found on the lawn below a lavatory on the top balcony of the men's ward shortly after 5 o'clock yesterday morning. The discovery was made by a member of the nursing staff.

Shortly before that he had been seen by other members of the staff on the balcony. An investigation shown that he had fallen from the window, a distance of about 29 feet.

Mr Morgan, who was age 68, had been in ill-health for some time and was admitted to the hospital about five weeks ago. For many years he had been a resident of Bundaberg and lived with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr and Mrs G E Hamann of Electra Street. He leaves a wife, two daughters and one son.

Pastor L Larsen officiated at the funeral yesterday afternoon, which was a private nature. F C Brown and Co carried out the arrangements (Bundaberg Daily News Mail 4th February 1941)

Mr Albert A Salmon

The death of Mr Albert Armitage Salmon occurred yesterday morning at the Bundaberg General Hospital. Mr Salmon, who was in his 87th year, was born at Kempsey, Macleay River, NSW. He had a retentive memory and could tell many stories of the early days when the pioneers had to face so many hardships. He followed farming on the Macleay River and Tweed River, and later took up land at Wolvi and South Burnett.

He lost three sons during the Great War and one died of wounds after returning to Australia. His first wife predeceased him four years ago. The surviving members of the family are John, Richard, Charles, Albert, Clement, Gordon, Jessie, Eliza, Lucy and one sister Mrs D Leslie, of Gillen Street, Bundaberg.

The funeral will leave the Methodist Church for the General Cemetery this morning for private interment at 11 o'clock. F C Brown and Co are the funeral directors. (Bundaberg Daily News Mail 7th February 1941)

Mr Robert H Teske (Bundaberg Daily News Mail 20th February 1941)

Mr Robert H Teske, a resident of Bundaberg of long standing died in the Bundaberg General Hospital yesterday, aged 55. His funeral takes place this morning from The Holy Rosary Church for interment in the Catholic Cemetery, the arrangements being in the hands of Mr John Novakoski

QUARTERLY ELECTORAL LIST

Quarterly (April) list of persons appearing qualified to vote at the election of Members of the Legislative Assembly in the year 1895, for the Electoral District of Musgrave (within the Gin Gin Division). Objections to names on this list must be sent to the Electoral registrar at Gin Gin, and to the persons objected to not later than the twenty-first day of June 1895.

Dated this sixth day of April 1895. F.W.Galloway, Electoral Registrar.

Allgood George Henry 28, Watawa ----- farmer, residence, 30th Mar 1895
Allsopp Henry 24, Moolboolaman reserve, labourer, residence, 12th January 1895
Bramley John 26, Watawa-----, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Bramley Thomas 26, Watawa ----- , farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Buchanan John Douglas 21, Kolonga-----Malangool road, stockman, residence, 12th January 1895
Carter James 29, Watawa, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Cheyne John William 36, Gin Gin, farmer, residence, 16th March 1895
Coleman Henry 32, 19 miles Camp Bundaberg and Meadowdale railway, lengthsman, freehold selection No 1136 Parish of Gin Gin 18th March 1895
Crosswell Charles 39, Watawa, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Farr Albert 31, Watawa, labourer, residence, 30th March 1895
Flanders William 43, Watawa, farmer, residence, 11th February 1895
Handley George 30, Watawa, farmer, residence 30th March 1895
Hooper Henry Emmanuel 27, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Howard Thomas John 30, Gin Gin plantation, farmer, residence, 16th March 1895
Kitching William Richard 42, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Morrison James ?, Stockyard Creek, farmer, residence, 9th March 1895
Munton William ? Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 23rd February 1895
Munton Gilbert, 24, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 6th March 1895
Munt James 32, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Oliver Thomas 24, Gin Gin and Watawa Roads, blacksmith, residence, 2nd April 1895
Oliver Thomas 26, Gin Gin and Watawa Road, blacksmith, residence, 2nd April 1895
Pearce George Josiah 27, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Pearce Edward 32, Watawa plantation, farmer , residence, 30th March 1895
Phillips Samuel 39, Buss's plantation, Currajong Creek, farmer, residence, 28th March 1895
Pohlman Henry 74, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Pohlman John 86, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Priestley John 30, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Randall Harry 27, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Robb John 27, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895

Robson Charles Thomas 27, Watawa plantation, farmer, residence, 30th March 1895
Ross John junior 21, Dalysford, stockman, residence, 12th January 1895
Searle John Thomas 29, Watawa, labourer, residence, 23rd March 1895
Taylor John Edward, 28, Crampton's farm, Currajong Creek, labourer, residence, 26th January 1895
Ward William 26, Currajong Creek, labourer, residence, 29th January 1895

DEVOTION

Bundaberg Daily News & Mail - 1926 "Bygone Bundaberg"

CHRIST CHURCH - HOW THE CHURCH BEGAN - When it is completed the new Christ Church will be a beautiful building indeed, reminiscent of the old towns of England. I must congratulate the Rev. Mr WALKER in his efforts, and it is to be hoped that the building will be opened as free of debt as is humanly possible. The first Christ Church in Quay Street was opened debt free, and I am in the happy position of being able to give a few facts as to its founding.

Some sort of preliminary meeting of those interested in the formation of a Church of England was called by Mr WELCH, then Telegraph officer at Bundaberg in 1874. Very little interest was manifested, although a fortnight's notice was given.

BROWN'S ACRE - Mr Alfred BROWN was in possession (as trustee for his brother) of an acre of ground in Quay Street given by him for the use of the Church of England. The land was to be vested in trustees as soon as L100 was collected. Trustees at that meeting were proposed and elected, and besides the preliminaries being settled, nothing else was done.

The next meeting was called for November 30, 1874, and I can place before readers the accurate facts and even the minutes of the meeting.

There were present the Rev. Ed. TANNER (Chairman); Messrs HUGHES, PHILLIPS, CATHCART, GOODWIN, JEUNE, BARNS and WELCH. The working committee was then formed. The first minute was:-

"Proposed by Mr Welch, seconded by Mr Barns, that the above committee be also a general working committee with power to add to this number. Carried".

The next meeting was called for December 8, 1874, when Mr Welch resigned his post as Secretary on account of his leaving the village.

"Proposed by Mr Welch, seconded by Mr Phillips, that Mr Barns act as secretary, in the place of Mr Welch, resigned. .. Carried."

"Proposed by Mr Cathcart, seconded by Mr Phillips, that Mr Jeune be a member of the committee . Carried."

THE PROPOSED BUILDING - On the same evening the description of the proposed building was discussed. Mr Welch had previously seen Mr BLASÉ, the carpenter, and from him had obtained a rough plan of a building suitable. The next minute was:-

"Proposed by Mr Goodwin, seconded by Mr Cathcart, that Mr Blasé be requested to furnish plans and specifications complete and the exact cost, and that in the event of the non-acceptance of plans, remuneration to be made. Carried".

Between that meeting and the next one early in 1875, collections were being made and negotiations entered into with Mr Brown relative to the land and the committee were awaiting the opportunity of meeting him. Mr Welch had already collected L105/- 7-0. For reasons afterwards explained quite satisfactory to the committee, Mr Brown preferred transferring the land to the Synod, stating the expense of appointing new trustees caused either by members leaving the district or in the event of death was great, that they had the power to raise moneys on the property, and that the amounts thus raised might be called in at a moment's notice, and consequently the liability of the property to be sacrificed, and as the land was left in trust for the Church of England here, he was of opinion that the fairest and safest way would be to convey the land to the head of the Church in Queensland. In the meantime plans had been forwarded from Sydney by Mr J.C. Thompson, the ground plan being consequently adopted.

Bundaberg Daily News and Mail 15 May 1926 "Bygone Bundaberg"

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY ROSARY - THE STORY OF ONE OF THE STATE'S FINEST FANES - A Prelude to To-morrow's Dedication Ceremonial.

Two timber seekers, John and Gavin STEWART, visited the lower Burnett at the end of 1866. Early in 1867 they formed a settlement and a township named Bundaberg was shortly afterwards created. The Rev. Father O'BRIEN, of Maryborough, occasionally visited the settlement and administered the rites of the Church to adherents who were scattered over an extensive area. At his instigation in 1883 it was decided to erect a church in Bundaberg and St. Mary's Church of the Holy Rosary is the beautiful and inspiring result.

THE PRIEST A GOOD GIVER - Subscription Hats were opened in 1867. Father O'BRIEN, from his own slender means, donated liberally. Funds were readily furnished and a church, 18 ft. x 24 ft., without any pretence or architectural adornment, was erected at a cost of £300. It was fully sufficient for the then small town and district population. On 3rd October, 1875, Father O'BRIEN came from Maryborough with the Church Choir, a feat accomplished with great difficulty (for there were no roads, or creek or river crossings) and opened the church with much ceremony and great rejoicing. It was the first place of worship of any denomination in the Lower Burnett, or, with the exception of Gayndah, in the whole of the Burnett.

In December, 1876, the Rev. Father ROSSOLINI arrived in Bundaberg from Gayndah, where he had officiated for some time previously, having been associated with Father O'BRIEN, of Maryborough, in whose parish Gayndah was. Father ROSSOLINI laboured many years in

Bundaberg, enjoying the love and affection of the whole populace.

- AN EARLY DAY CASKET - In November, 1876, the first lottery (art union) that had been conducted in this portion of Queensland, was drawn off under the conductorship of Mr Walter ADAMS, afterwards parliamentary representative of the district and the result was of much monetary help to the church.

- THE ARCHBISHOP - His Grace, Dr. DUHIG, Archbishop of Brisbane, who will perform the dedication and opening ceremonies at the Church of the Holy Rosary tomorrow.

Father O'BRIEN continued to visit Bundaberg occasionally, and in June, 1878, when on business here in connection with the Convent school he died suddenly from an apoplectic seizure at the house of Father ROSSOLINI, and he was buried in the church grounds. The body was subsequently conveyed to Maryborough for interment. Father O'BRIEN, who was ordained by Bishop O'QUINN in 1871, was the first priest ordained in Queensland.

From the date of building the first church additional accommodation was provided for the Sisters of St. Joseph who conducted what was locally termed the "Nuns' School".

"THE NUNS' SCHOOL" - In 1881 the Convent building was erected at a cost of £130. In November, 1879, Bishop O'QUINN and Father HENNEBERRY held a week's religious service in St. Mary's, and at the end of January, 1881, the Rev. J.E. TENNISON-WOOD conducted a temperance mission in the church.

The connection rapidly increased in numbers and this church became inadequate to hold the congregations. The Rev. Father ROSSOLINI, to who the people of Bundaberg were deeply attached, inaugurated a movement to obtain a church building that would be worthy of the place. The populace handsomely responded, and on 1st February, 1886, Bishop DUNNE approved of the plan of the new Church as submitted to him by the Rev. C. ROSSOLINI, who made a special visit to Brisbane for that purpose. The building, which was estimated to cost £3,500, was to be capable of extension at any time. Half of the requisite money required was in hand.

FOUNDATION STONE LAID - Sunday, 10th October, 1886, was a red-letter day in the annals of Catholicism in Bundaberg - it was the occasion of the laying of the foundation or corner stone of St. Mary of the Holy Rosary. At the 10 o'clock Mass Father O'REILLY, of Maryborough, officiated, the church being uncomfortably crowded, including many non-Catholics.

Immediately after Mass the procession began to form. The school children, numbering 200, neatly dressed and bearing their four beautiful banners, formed in line.

The Hibernians, in their handsome regalia, to the number of sixty participated. At 11 a.m. His Lordship, Bishop DUNNE, wearing the cape and mitre and other investments pertaining to his high office, emerged from the sacristy of the old church, accompanied by the Revds. Fathers

O'REILLY and ROSSOLINI, and a number of altar boys in surplice and sputane and bearing the crozier.

The procession moved round the building in the presence of a large concourse of spectators. After the ceremony £254 was subscribed by those present to the building fund.

COMPLETED IN 1888 - The energy of Father ROSSOLINI and his curate, Father MONAGHAN, was rewarded by the completion of the handsome edifice at the beginning of May, 1888. It had been designed by Mr F.D.G. STANLEY, of Brisbane, and erected by the contractor, Mr F. BOYLE.

On Sunday, May 13th, 1888, the church was consecrated by His Grace Archbishop DUNNE, assisted by Fathers O'REILLY (Maryborough), RYAN (Gympie), O'CONNELL (Toowoomba), J. HORAN (Warwick), ROSSOLINI and MONAGHAN. His Grace was met by the committee, Messrs W. ADAMS, M.L.A., J. DRINAN, P. O'BRIEN, C.P. SMITH, J. McSHEA, J. WALLACE, and Rev. C. ROSSOLINI. Mr ADAMS read an address of welcome, and the Archbishop made an eloquent and suitable reply.

On the completion of the act of consecration, Mass was celebrated by Father O'REILLY, and the Rev. J. HORAN preached a practical sermon from the Epistle for the day Peter IV, 7:11, "Be prudent and watch in prayer." The collection amounted to £367, which was augmented to £400 during the day.

ONLY THREE PASTORS - There has been only three parish priests in Bundaberg during the 61 years since the church was established here, namely, Father ROSSOLINI, upon the death of whom his curate, Father J. MIMNAGH, was appointed, and Father M. BALDWIN.

To-morrow before the addition to the church are really complete, but to suit Archbishop DUHIG's arrangements preliminary to his trip abroad - district Catholics will celebrate the consummation of the ambitions of sixty years with the dedication of the magnificent new St. Mary's by their Archbishop.

THE CEREMONIAL - TWO DIGNITARIES ASSIST - When the ceremony is to be performed to-morrow Archbishop DUHIG, who will arrive from Brisbane this morning, will be accompanied by Rev. Father W.J. LUCKINGTON, S.J., ex-Superior of the Jesuit Order in Australia, who has come from Sydney for the occasion.

PLANNED FOR EXTENSION - When the Church was first commenced away back in 1886, the building was designed as to provide for future extensions and ultimate completion, and it was left to Rev. Father M. BALDWIN, who took charge of the parish in 1918, to complete the church which stands to-day as a monument to his zeal and enterprise, a credit to the Catholic community and an acquisition to the architectural beauty of Bundaberg. It is one of the finest buildings of the kind outside the Capital, and is something of which Bundaberg has reason to feel proud.

ON FAIRCLOTH LINES - The plans of the extensions and improvements, prepared by the late Mr F.H. FAIRCLOTH, provided for a complete transformation of the Church, the side walls of which only were left intact. The eastern end of the building, which had been composed of wood in accordance with the original extension scheme, was demolished, as also were the massive concrete columns supporting the roof.

A huge transept, 100 ft. x 30 ft., built of concrete and bricks was added. The towering walls, supporting heavy beams pannelled out in conformity with the ceiling which is also heavily pannelled.

A beautiful apse is let in in the eastern wall. The apse is half-tone constructed of concrete, treated inside with cement, with arch supported on two ionic columns, and an arch impost surrounding the inside of the apse.

BEAUTIFUL WINDOWS - The lead-light memorial windows in the apse are a work of art, costing hundreds of pounds, and regarded as the finest in Australia.

The massive marble altar, costing upwards of £500, was moved back bodily into the apse. Marble steps lead up to the altar, and the communion rail is of massive brass pilasters with heavy hand rail surround.

The face of the overhead arch contains the "Hie Domus Die Est F. Porta Cocli." ("This is the House of God and the Gate to Heaven"). The lettering is artistically set out in gold, with gold border on a crimson background, the work of Mr H. FORDER. On either side of the main altar two smaller designed altars of marble are erected.

THE FIRST PRIEST MEMORY - The altar on the left was erected to the memory of the late Father C. ROSSOLINI, Bundaberg's first parish priest, whose mortal remains were interred in the church immediately in front of the altar, and the sacred spot is to be marked by a tablet.

The floor is of concrete top-coated with crimson oxide, and the aisles leading from the doors to the altar are to be tiled. Immediately over the front entrance a gallery has been erected for the choir.

It is supported by fluted ionic cast iron columns, the whole surrounded with heavy palisading. There are 25 lead light memorial windows of beautiful design, and as above stated the three windows at the rear of the apse are the finest in the Commonwealth and a tribute to Australian art. The embossed steel ceiling adds to the attractiveness of the building.

Adjoining the sanctuary is the sacristy, which contains a strong room. The lighting arrangements leave nothing to be desired.

The extensions and improvements costing approximately L14,000, are a credit to the Contractor (Mr N.C. STEFFENSEN) who had given the utmost consideration in every detail, and the work has been completed to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Another fortnight would have seen the church finished off, and everything in order, but in view of Archbishop DUHIG's departure for America and Rome in a few days' time it was decided that he perform the ceremony before leaving on the trip.

The ceiling and windows were installed by Messrs EXTON and Co., Brisbane, lighting installations were carried out by Mr B. FLYNN, Mr John YOUNG had the carpentry section, and Mr Dan CAWTE was entrusted with the painting, the whole being carried out under the supervision of Mr N. STEFFENSEN, since the death of Mr FAIRCLOTH.

THE ARRANGEMENTS - The arrangements for to-morrow are:- Masses will be celebrated at 6.30., 7.30, 9.0 and 10.30. After the latter Mass, Rev. Father LUCKINGTON will preach, and His Grace will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to upwards of 200 candidates. The latter ceremony will be carried out in all its impressiveness and beauty. At mid-day a luncheon will be provided by the ladies' committee, and at 3 p.m. the blessing and opening ceremony will take place.

DATES to Remember

General and Annual Meeting 13th June 2026

Launch of Drinan Book 19th September 2026
More in our next journal

Trival will be in October 2026

Competitions

August meeting.

The long Christian or Surname in your family

October Meeting

There will be baby photos displayed in the rooms and a prize for who guess the most correct ones

These will be of our members.

Bundaberg Genealogical Association Inc
PO Box 103
Bundaberg Qld 4670.

To _____
