



Special Points of Interest:

- *Last instalment of the paper written by Jim Manion, manager of the Townsville Bulletin in the 1980s.*
- *The Launch of our T150 Project, a timeline and feature wall.*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

How time flies, here it is the end of June 2016 and so much has happened in the last 6 months at the Museum. The Museum participated in Heritage Day at West End park, which attracted quite a large number of visitors. Then the official launch of the 150 year Timeline was held on 20 June and officially opened by Councillor Colleen Doyle, representing the Mayor. Councillor Kurt Rehbein, Chairman of Community and Cultural Development also attended as well as members and guests. The Museum now has an outside feature wall on Hall 2 titled "From land selection to premier City" which features an early map of Cleveland Bay, photos of the first Mayor and founder, John Melton Black and the men who selected the site suitable for a port, which later was called Townsville after its financial backer, Captain Robert Towns. The 150 year Timeline inside Hall 2 has been strategically placed around the room and complimented with black & white photos of early Townsville progress over its first 50 years. The final board is complimented with a display featuring a framed Cowboys 2015 NRL Grand final t-shirt signed by the team. This wonderful acquisition was given to the Museum by the Cowboys Club. A special thank you is also extended to Rachael Cliffe, Manager of Telstra Townsville for the generous donation towards the morning tea for this special occasion.

There have been a few changes in both Halls. The hotel china cabinet has been moved to opposite the kitchen display and now features a backdrop photo of the first Seaview Hotel and a small section of the Queens Hotel. The camera cabinet is now a permanent display in Hall 1 next to the Dolls collection and its backdrop photo is the business of Kodak (c. late 1930s) which was located in Flinders Street and was also the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau. To make the Museum more interesting to the visitor, we are trying to change small displays throughout the year. It is difficult to undertake any major display changes as we are very limited with space in our current premises. We live in hope of a move - one day - soon. Also don't forget membership is now due and the AGM will be held on Sunday 25 September 2016, so if you would like to nominate for committee we would love to have you on board. Until next time.

Trish Cronin

Monthly committee meetings are held at the Museum on the third Monday of the month at ten o'clock. All committee members are notified a week prior to the meeting.



This sketch of the Willmetts building is a work of Merle Herbert and was found in the Papers of Jim Manion held by Townsville Museum & Historical Society.

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TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday to Friday

9:00 am to 2:30 pm

First and Third Sundays of the month

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

ENTRY BY GOLD COIN DONATION

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(12 months from 1st July to 30th June)

Single \$ 11.00

Couples \$ 16.50

Corporate \$ 32.50

WILLMETT STREET, CITY

Thankful Percy Willmett was a bookseller, printer, stationer and publisher, who served many terms as an alderman and was mayor several times, being first elected to this position in 1879. He wrote and published the "History of North Queensland from 1861" and also published an annual almanac for some years after 1875. The road was originally known as Black Street.

This obituary was published in the Townsville Daily Bulletin (Qld. : 1907 - 1954), Thursday 22 August 1907, page 4.

DEATH OF MR. T. WILLMETT.

Another link between the past and present history of Townsville was severed by the death on Wednesday evening of Mr Thankful Willmett at the ripe old age of 76 years. For some months past deceased had been somewhat frail in health and only last week expressed the opinion to the writer that his end was near at hand. There was then, however, no outward indication that Mr Willmett's anticipation was within a few days of realisation, but a few hours later he was struck down with an apoplectic fit and was removed to the residence of his son Percy, at Hermit Park. He never regained consciousness and a few minutes before six p.m. yesterday peacefully passed away. The late Mr Willmett throughout his long association with Townsville played a prominent part in the administration of local government affairs. Born In London in 1831 within hearing of the chimes of the Bow Bells, deceased at an early age entered into maritime pursuits, and during the Crimean War was one of the crew of a transport engaged in conveying British troops to Balaclava Bay, where he heard the roar of the guns of the combatants. Subsequently joining an emigrant ship as an officer he came to Australia, and it was then he first met the lady destined to become his wife. Returning with the ship to England he resigned, came out to the Central district of Queensland, where he entered the ranks of the benedicts and spent 10 years between Rockhampton and Nebo. Attracted by the Cape diggings rush he came to Townsville in 1868, and two years later established the business with which he was associated up to the time of his demise. Shortly afterwards he entered civic life, and his ability was not long in being recognised. In 1880 the Aldermen showed their appreciation of his worth by electing him Mayor, a position he filled on four subsequent occasions. The separation movement next claimed his attention and for a number of years he occupied the post of president of the North Queensland Separation Council, devoting with enthusiasm his ability in the struggle to free the north of the fetters linking it with the south. In other local public bodies he was also a prominent figure, one of the notable charitable functions he performed being the laying of the foundation stone of the Townsville Hospital.

While holding the position of Mayor it fell to his lot to preside at the function organised in connection with the opening of the Northern Railway line as far as the Reid River. Some years ago he entered the political arena, but suffered defeat by Mr A. Qgden, in the contest for the seat in the State Parliament rendered vacant by the death of the late Mr G. Burns. Of late Mr Willmett had sought retirement from public affairs and left the management of this business pretty well in the hands of his sons Fred and Percy. Of a genial disposition deceased had a wide circle of friends, whose sympathy will go forth to the family in their

bereavement. His wife predeceased him some six years ago but he is survived by two sons and three daughters. Messrs Fred and Percy



Alderman T. Willmett (1879)

FROM THE PAPERS OF JIM MANION, MANAGER OF THE NORTH QUEENSLAND NEWSPAPER COMPANY

Our Museum holds a few papers which belonged to Jim Manion, manager of the North Queensland Newspaper Company in the 1980s. Jim loved history and researched the history of print in Queensland. He presented the Clem Lack Memorial Oration in March 1983 where he demonstrated his historical knowledge of the press throughout the early years of the state of Queensland.



Mr Jim Manion

Here is one draft of a research paper written by Jim Manion. (No date is recorded.) As far as possible I have reproduced the annotations and marks inscribed on the paper in biro.

This is Part 2 of the N. Q. Telegraph and Territorial Separationist paper by Jim Manion.

This wide community involvement in the Company was to surface again when the Townsville Herald Newspaper Company was floated in 1882. The earlier company, The Cleveland Bay Express Newspaper Company Limited was liquidated in 1870 when the editor, Henry Bohm, acquired the business. Many of the first shareholders had failed to meet the progressive calls for further contributions so that, by 1869, eight shares were forfeited and calls totalling 26 pounds were outstanding. Many years later Mr F. Gordon, the former secretary, still retained; "A lively recollection of the troubles he experienced in getting sufficient money week by week to pay the compositors". When Bohm died in 1872 his widow remarried a journalist, C. E. Carkeet and the paper continued under that ownership until it was sold to the school inspector, A. J. Boyd in August 1875. Boyd did not retain ownership for long as he sold it to Thomas Williams on 2 May 1876 for a reputedly healthy profit. It merged with the opposition paper, The Townsville Times, just over a year later in September 1876.

The Townsville Times

The Townsville Times was first published on 4 November 1874 by James McManus, a compositor who operated from premises in Flinders Street opposite the A. S. N. wharf.

In 1876 the Times merged with the Cleveland Bay Express and the business was initially carried on as a partnership between McManus and Thomas Williams. It was dissolved in December 1876 and McManus remained as sole proprietor until July 1882 when he disposed of two thirds of his interest.

McManus became a major shareholder with 98 shares in the Townsville Herald Newspaper Company Limited when it was formed in 1882. The other large shareholders were George Simpson, Saddler with 99 shares and the accountant, John Newport Parkes, with 90 shares.

McManus moved to Paddington, a suburb of Sydney, in 1883 and sold his entire holding the next year. The editors of the Townsville Times included [R. J. Morressy](#), [W. Sigerson](#) and [Edward Conroy](#).

FROM THE PAPERS OF JIM MANION, MANAGER OF THE NORTH QUEENSLAND NEWSPAPER COMPANY

The Argus

In December 1876 the Townsville Herald devoted a rather plaintive leader to the allegations contained in the just issued prospectus for a second paper in the town.

Thomas Wright, earlier a compositor on the Townsville Times, and subsequently printer of the Cleveland Bay Express, started the Argus in the first weeks of January 1877 after the merger of the Express and Times. His editor was J. Y. Walker and the paper had a brief existence. While Wright initially denied any association with another new publication first issued in July 1877 in the form of the Northern Standard, it was only a matter of weeks before the ever vigilant Northern Miner in Charters Towers reported on 29 August:

“ However the latest bantling after a fierce duello and scattering Greek fire by the Editor of the Argus enough to pierce the hide of a rhinoceros, the Argus became entombed in the Northern Standard and Townsville is once more fully represented.”

Wright's name later appeared on the imprint linked with the Editor, The Rev Henry Hughes. Wright retained ownership until his death in November 1881. His wife who carried on the business died of dropsy some three months and one week later. The paper was then managed by the solicitor, Henry Knapp, on behalf of the executors until it was sold to Joseph Hodel on 20 September 1882. It was announced that his brothers, Frank and Frederick Hodel, fresh from the Palmer Chronicle at Maytown, would manage the venture.

The Hodel family contributed to a number of newspaper ventures in North Queensland. Francis Charles, snr, the carpenter brought to Townsville to construct the first buildings, eventually came to own and run the Cooktown Courier. Joseph ultimately became chairman of the North Queensland Newspaper Company Limited, a position he was to hold for a record 29 years from 1914. Frederick Charles Hodel was involved in the Torres Straits Pilot on Thursday Island, being listed in Pugh's Almanac from 1891 to 1896.



Left: Joseph Hodel

Portrait of Joseph Hodel, born 9 October 1850 at Jersey, on the Channel Islands. He arrived in Townsville, Queensland in 1870 and went on to join the Townsville City Council in 1895, becoming Mayor in 1910. Hodel was a member of the Legislative Council Queensland between 1914 and 1922. On the 4 September, 1943 Hodel died in Townsville, Queensland. (Information taken from: Australian Dictionary of Biography, vol. 9, 1966)

Photo and information supplied by Queensland State Library.

A COPY OF A PAGE OF THE TOWNSVILLE TIMES—WEDNESDAY MAY 26, 1875

THE TOWNSVILLE TIMES

AND NORTH QUEENSLAND ADVERTISER.

Townsville: Wednesday, May 26, 1875.

Vol. 1, No. 20

P. V. ARMATI,
Chemist and Druggist.
Patent medicines always on hand.

BUNSELL BROS.
Fruit, Groceries, and Accessories.
Wholesale and Retail.
Branch of Queensland, 2 A.M. to 12 P.M., and 7 P.M. to 9 P.M.

W. A. ROSE, Stationer.
Prints and Stationery.
No. 11, Flinders Street.

J. M. H. CROSBY,
Agent for Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania.
Wholesale and Retail.
No. 11, Flinders Street.

A. E. JEWELL AND CO.,
Dist. Depots, Queensland.
General Commission Agents.
Wholesale and Retail.
No. 11, Flinders Street.

S. F. WALKER & CO.,
Wholesale and Retail.
No. 11, Flinders Street.

GENERAL MERCHANTS.
Wholesale and Retail.
No. 11, Flinders Street.

FOR SALE BY THE UNDERSIGNED.
A large quantity of...
No. 11, Flinders Street.

FOR SALE BY THE UNDERSIGNED.
A large quantity of...
No. 11, Flinders Street.

FOR SALE BY THE UNDERSIGNED.
A large quantity of...
No. 11, Flinders Street.

FOR SALE BY THE UNDERSIGNED.
A large quantity of...
No. 11, Flinders Street.

FOR SALE BY THE UNDERSIGNED.
A large quantity of...
No. 11, Flinders Street.

NORTH AUSTRALIAN HOTEL.
Diggers, Bushmen, and Visitors.
The best of the North Australian a very desirable place of residence.

FIRST CLASS TABLE.
Also Wine and Spirits of the Best Brands.
GOOD STABLES, AND MODERATE CHARGES.
DANIEL PARKER,
Proprietor.
EXCHANGE HOTEL,
FLINDERS-STREET, TOWNSVILLE.

MR. O'NEIL, in returning thanks for past favors begs to inform the public that he has opened the above hotel, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Flinders Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

SHAMROCK HOTEL,
FLINDERS-STREET, TOWNSVILLE.
THE PROPRIETOR of the above Hotel begs to inform the public that he has opened the above hotel, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Flinders Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

CRITERION HOTEL,
ISLAND, TOWNSVILLE.
MR. JOHN HARRIS begs to inform the public that he has opened the above hotel, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Island, and is a very desirable place of residence.

CARRIERS' ARMS HOTEL,
FLINDERS-STREET, TOWNSVILLE.
THE PROPRIETOR of the above Hotel begs to inform the public that he has opened the above hotel, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Flinders Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

TOWNSVILLE HOTEL,
FLINDERS-STREET, TOWNSVILLE.
WINE, SPIRITS, BEER, &c., OF FIRST CLASS BRANDS.
MODERATE CHARGES FOR VERY BEST WINE.
ADMISSION FREE.
A. F. LOW, Proprietor.

NORTH STAR HOTEL,
FLINDERS-STREET, TOWNSVILLE.
MR. JOHN HARRIS begs to inform the public that he has opened the above hotel, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Flinders Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

THE AUSTRALIAN HOTEL,
CHARLOTTE-STREET, COOKTOWN.
MR. JOHN HARRIS begs to inform the public that he has opened the above hotel, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Charlotte Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

MAURICE JOE, Proprietor.

CHARLES O'NEIL,
Wholesale and Retail Produce Merchant, General Commission Agent.
FLINDERS-STREET, TOWNSVILLE.
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
COMMISSION AND FORWARDING AGENTS,
FLINDERS-STREET, TOWNSVILLE.

W. H. MORRIS,
Wholesale and Retail Produce Merchant, General Commission Agent.
FLINDERS-STREET, TOWNSVILLE.

ALL KINDS OF SOBERALS ALWAYS ON HAND.
Photography! Photography!!

H. DAY begs to inform the public that he has opened the above hotel, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Flinders Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

T. M. SHEPPARD, late D. Miller,
TAILOR, OUTFITTER, AND GENERAL IMPORTER.
No. 11, Flinders Street.

FREE TRADE STORES,
CHARLOTTE STREET,
COOKTOWN.
TO HOTELKEEPERS, STOREKEEPERS, and OTHERS.

JOHN WALSH,
Proprietor of the above Store, begs to inform his friends that he has now on hand a large and varied assortment of Merchandise of every description suitable for the Diggins and Town consumption.

The Proprietor, having made very extensive purchases in the CHEAPEST MARKETS in the Colonies, is in a position to offer his goods much cheaper than any other Store in Northern Queensland.

He also begs to call attention to his large stock of Wines, Spirits, and Groceries.

Parties desiring full satisfaction by forwarding their orders to

JOHN WALSH,
AT THE FREE TRADE STORES,
COOKTOWN.
H. S. WILLIAMS,
= AUCTIONEER, &c.

MR. JOHN WALSH, in returning thanks for the liberal patronage that he has taken part of the Commission Agents lately assigned by Messrs. Sheppard & Co., Brisbane, which he has now opened as an AUCTIONEER, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Flinders Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

MR. JOHN WALSH, in returning thanks for the liberal patronage that he has taken part of the Commission Agents lately assigned by Messrs. Sheppard & Co., Brisbane, which he has now opened as an AUCTIONEER, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Flinders Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

MR. JOHN WALSH, in returning thanks for the liberal patronage that he has taken part of the Commission Agents lately assigned by Messrs. Sheppard & Co., Brisbane, which he has now opened as an AUCTIONEER, and is now open for the reception of all who desire to visit Queensland. The hotel is situated in the Flinders Street, and is a very desirable place of residence.

This copy of the "The Townsville Times" was scanned from a photo contained in the Jim Manion Papers at Townsville Museum & Historical Society.

LAUNCH OF TOWNSVILLE 150 YEARS TIMELINE—20TH JUNE 2016

On 20th June, Townsville Museum and Historical Society launched its Townsville 150 project, a Timeline and Feature Wall, at our premises in Currajong. Invited dignitaries and guests gathered to view the wonderful additions to our museum, both funded by the Townsville City Council's T150 Grants Programme. The Timeline was a major part of the project, taking Trish and Geoff many hours of reading and researching the events included on the boards. To fully display the boards, some of the cabinet displays in Hall 2 were also rejigged, enabling areas surrounding the boards to carry supporting photographs and other relevant artefacts. A signed jersey of the Premiership winning Cowboys team is also proudly on display near one of the Timeline boards. Councillor Colleen Doyle represented the Mayor and opened our new displays in front of an appreciative audience.

The feature on one of the outside walls of Hall 2 is named "From land selection to premier City" and features an early map and photographs of some of the influential people involved in the establishment of our city.

Telstra Alumni Group generously donated funds towards the catering of the function and we are grateful to them for this kind gesture.



Above: President Trish Cronin addressing the invited guests to the launch of the T150 Timeline Project.



Right: Councillor Colleen Doyle officiating on behalf of the Mayor at the Timeline Opening.

LAUNCH OF T150 TIMELINE AT TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM



Above: Councillor Colleen Doyle opening the T150 Project to the general public with Councillor Kurt Rehbein looking on.

Left: President Trish Cronin, Cr Kurt Rehbein and Cr Colleen Doyle view the new Timeline and displays in Hall 2 at Townsville Museum.

Photos by courtesy of Member Geoff Hansen.

“THE VILLAGE” CELEBRATES THE LIVES OF 13 GREAT TOWNSVILLE WOMEN

Celebrate the Lives of 13 Great Townsville Women – The Village

On 10th March, our President Trish and Vice President Geoff attended the launch of the art gallery at Townsville’s new suburb, The Village.

“ ‘The Village’ has dedicated the naming of 13 residential precincts in recognition of remarkable women who have played a role in shaping the City and region we know today. Each of their stories are celebrated through the creation of a one-off design that embodies the spirit of their contribution.”

Some of these women are and have been closely associated with Townsville Museum. Townsville Museum is very pleased that these women have been honoured in this way.

Griffin Way [Helga Griffin, historian and author, most recently “Frontier Town”]

The ‘Griffin’ design focusses on Helga’s story of the near demise of Townsville after the cyclone of 1867, which destroyed nearly one in three buildings. The barometric pressure bars create a pattern that appears to be heavy rainfall on water.

Gibson-Wilde Pocket [Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde OAM, historian and author, “Gateway to a Golden Land (1984)"]

The ‘Gibson- Wilde’ design is literally created out of the view of Castle Hill- featured on the cover of Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde’s book about the area. The linework is repeated to represent the different local, pastoral regions and movements through time.

Menghetti Central [Dr Diane Menghetti, Associate Professor of History, recipient of a University Medal and graduate with first class honours in 1980.]

The “Menghetti’ design reflects an aspect of Townville history that was of particular interest to Dr Meneghetti. With her focus on social, political and economic history, gold and copper mining feature heavily in her work – the artwork describes the tracks people historically followed to the mines.

Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde and Helga Griffin accept a copy of the artwork designed in their honour at “The Village”.



Photo by Michael Chambers



RECENT EVENTS—A TRIP TO 2RAR MUSEUM—17 FEBRUARY 2016

Geoff Hansen coordinated with Curator John Twomey for a group of Townsville Museum Volunteers to visit 2RAR Museum which is housed at Lavarack Barracks. We enjoyed a leisurely viewing of the collection and were lead through the collection by John whose deep knowledge of the collection was appreciated by all visitors.

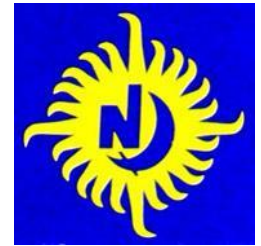


Clockwise from above : Trish (President) and Noel, Top left: Fay, Harvey, Gary (obscured), Dell, Lyn. Top right: Gary, John Twomey, Harvey, Rodney, Dell, Elaine. Bottom right:: Gary, Fred, Graham.

Visit by Herbert River Museum Volunteers

On the 6th February a group of Townsville Museum Volunteers visited and the Herbert river Museum and in return we invited them to visit our premises. On the 17th May we hosted a group of volunteers for a morning tea and a tour of our museum. This was a successful exercise and both museums agree it is a worthwhile activity to continue into the future.

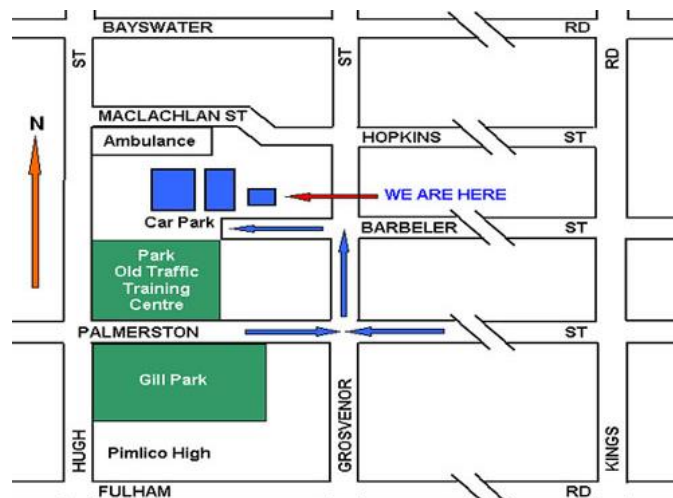




Townsville Museum
 &
 Historical Society Inc.
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 HYDE PARK QLD 4812
 Phone: 07 4775 7838

Email: admin@townsvillemuseum.com.au

Website: <http://www.townsvillemuseum.com.au>



MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE FOR RENEWAL
 Please contact the Museum to arrange payment of the
fees.

We would love to extend our membership base so please spread the
 word about our wonderful museum.



OUR SUPPORTERS

Support
 The
 Groups
 That
 Support your
 Museum

