

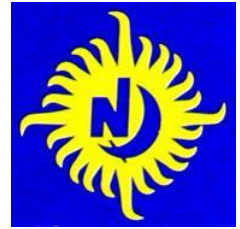
## Newsletter of the

# TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

June 2019

1/27 Barbeler Street Currajong Q 4812

PO Box 785 Hyde Park Q 4812



### Special Points of Interest:

- *Research by John Elliott "HMS Mermaid and Allan Cunningham"*
- *Part 3 of Nick's Memoirs—Sidings around Townsville*
- *Hunter's Paw Paw Sauce and photographer Lyne Brown—Nick Shailer*

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The end of the financial year is fast approaching which means Membership renewals are due. As members, your continued financial support and volunteering support to Townsville Museum is very much appreciated. Without members and volunteers Townsville Museum would not exist. Spread the word to friends and family about joining our organisation. We are always looking for new volunteers to assist with various jobs at the Museum and also guiding visitors through. You meet so many nice visitors who appreciate what we do in preserving Townsville's history.

On Sunday 19th May the Museum had an Open Day highlighting displays of early childhood games. Nick Shailer provided a great display of toys and games which the children really enjoyed. For some of the 'big' kids it brought back many memories. Katie Pittock from Townsville City Libraries provided Face Painting, Fairyfloss for the kids, for which we sincerely thank you and the Museum had a sausage sizzle. Thanks to Sue, Geoff and Fay for being the "Chefs" of the day. Petra, Noel and Lydia guided visitors through the Museum and Wendy was the drinks and sausage lady. It was a very successful day and for most of the visitors it was their first time and indicated they will return. Our next big event will be Heritage Day on Sunday 16th June at ANZAC Park on the Strand.

We now have two new displays in Hall 2. The 1911 Diary of Elizabeth O'Brien telling the story of the loss of her husband Clifford on the s.s Yongala, is now on display. A new cabinet of Sporting Trophies, a 1947 Football shield and a 1956 Olympic Torch Runners medallion is located next to the Val Heaton display.

Our Annual General Meeting date has changed from previous years and will be held this year on Sunday 25th August. Nomination forms for the committee are available from the Secretary. If you would like to be part of the committee, please nominate as new committee members are always welcome as they bring fresh ideas and skills to the organisation.

Until next time,  
Cheers  
Trish Cronin  
President

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.



Member John and Granddaughter Kaitlin at the Open Day held at our premises on 19th May 2019.

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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 Adults \$2 Chn 50c

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

Single \$ 11.00

Couples \$ 16.50

Corporate \$ 32.50

## FLETCHER STREET

### Fletcher Street, City:

Joseph Fletcher was born in 1833 at Manchester, arrived in Queensland about 1860 and in Townsville about 1866 with a cargo of sawn timber from Maryborough. In the same year he became a partner of W. Graham, the first butcher of the town. Fletcher subsequently took over the business and ran it until 1878. With S. F. Walker he set up a timber yard which was then sold to Frederick Gordon. Again, in partnership with S. F. Walker he established, in 1876, a soap and candle works, firstly on the bank of Ross River and later near the Carrier's Arms Hotel in Flinders Street West. He served several terms as an Alderman and was Mayor in 1873-74. He died, age 45, on the 1st April 1878 at his property "Park View", which was formerly Findlater's Paddock, Oonoomba.

Mathew, J. (1995). *Highways and Byways*. Townsville, Queensland: Townsville City Council.



## TOWNSVILLE SHUNTING—PART 3

### Nick Shailer's Memoirs

Besides the shunting yards, the Vic Park leg which I've written about in previous editions, there were a few other sidings and short lines in the Townsville area. On the way to Oonoonba and just before Rooney's bridge there was Yenoor siding, which is "Rooney" spelt backwards, which ran into the Rooney's sawmill on the banks of Ross River and the United Packaging works (formally Northern manufacturing).

Oonoonba had several dead end roads where K wagons (Cattle wagons) were stored, cleaned and repaired, a spur line ran along the front of the school and down into the Ross River meatworks. Here frozen meat was loaded into wagons, then sent to the jetty for loading into ships. On the right hand side, just over Oonoonba Road, there was the meatworks livestock siding and yards.

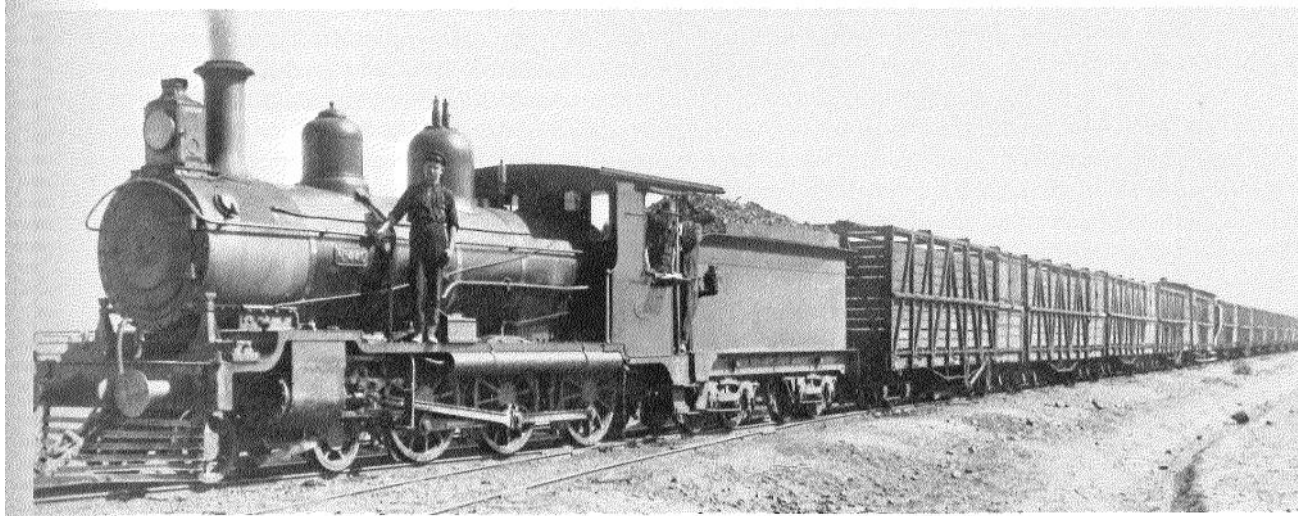
Just before reaching the Cluden Race Course was another small siding which could hold a couple of K wagons. These were used to move race horses to and from the races.

At Stuart, there was a spur line into the cement works for limestone traffic which ran from Calcium each day and another dead end road to hold the empty wagons. This area has vastly changed today.

In the late 1950s another turning angle and several spur lines were constructed for the Copper Refinery. It came off the main line down at Partington. A shunting yard was also constructed with eight long roads to hold bigger trains.

Past Stuart on the western line is Brookhill. Several lines ran off into the explosives magazines in this area .

*Evans Anderson & Phelan PB15 No. 440 at Quilpie with a long train of empty K wagons; loaded with cattle it would return as two trains.*  
(John Oxley Library)



Photograph reproduced from:

Kerr, John. (1990). *Triumph of Narrow Gauge: A History of Queensland Railways*. Brisbane Qld: Boolarong Publications

## HMS MERMAID AND ALLAN CUNNINGHAM— JOHN ELLIOTT

### Preface

The following account of the visit of the HMS Mermaid and botanist Allan Cunningham to Cape Cleveland in June 1819 has been prompted by the bicentenary of that date. This is a minor, but locally significant, episode of colonial exploration, that provides the first detailed botanic description of the area.

Cape Cleveland is a peninsular some 20km east of Townsville, projecting north into the Coral Sea by about 12km. For the mariner it provides a notable landmark, with Mt Cleveland rising 550m amidst a number of other rocky heights. Most of this rugged peninsular is protected within the boundary of Bowling Green Bay National Park, with no road or track access and the area is essentially as much of a natural wilderness as it ever was.

Evidence of Aboriginal ownership is not uncommon, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this country, the Bindal people, and recognise their continuing connection to land and sea country. We always tread lightly and respectfully.

Between Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 1819, HMS Mermaid anchored in Cleveland Bay, as part of its first circumnavigation of Australia, and a number of activities were undertaken on the western shores of Cape Cleveland. This episode is well documented and my interpretation of the events is based on several primary sources:

*Narrative of a Survey of the Intertropical and Western Coasts of Australia 1818-1822.* Phillip Parker King 1825

*Allan Cunningham Journal May 1819-September 1822* | MAV/FM4/3104 Mitchell Library. Microfiche held at JCU Library. Entries for the relevant days of the journal were transcribed and kindly made available by Dr Tony Orchard, author of *The Australian Botanical Journals of Allan Cunningham February 1819 to September 1822 The Later King Expeditions*

*Chart of part of the NE Coast of Australia by Phillip Parker King Commander RN 1819,1820,1821. Sheet 1.* Held by JCU Special Collections.

And these books:

*King of the Australian Coast* Marsden Hordern. Miegunyah Press, 1997

*Allan Cunningham Botanist and Explorer* W G McMinn Melbourne University Press, 1970

## HMS MERMAID

Captain James Cook was the first European to chart the coastal waters of east Australian in 1770, and whilst he named a large number of geographical features, he often did so from a good distance from shore. On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 1770 he described:

*'This bay, which I named Cleveland Bay, appeared to be about 5 or 6 Miles in Extent every way. The East point I named Cape Cleveland, and the West, Magnetical Head or Island, as it had much the appearance of an Island; and the Compass did not traverse well when near it. They are both Tolerable high, and so is the Main Land within them, and the whole appeared to have the most rugged, rocky, and barren Surface of any we have yet seen. However, it is not without inhabitants, as we saw smoke in several places in the bottom of the bay'*

Along the north eastern Australian coast, Cook's entanglement with the complexity of the Great Barrier Reef, which he termed the "Labyrinth", remained a deterrent, and future captains preferred the relative safety of the outer passage.

During Mathew Flinders' 1802 circumnavigation of Australia, *HMS Investigator* charted the east coast in great detail, but the naturalist on board, Robert Brown, made his last landfall on this coast at Calder Island in the Cumberland group, close to present day Mackay. When they left Calder Island on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, the *Investigator* sailed through the Great Barrier Reef and into the Coral Sea, not making landfall again until the 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Good's Island in the Torres Strait.

As a consequence, the east coast of northern Australia remained botanically unexplored until the survey expedition undertaken by *HMS Mermaid* in 1819. The main reason for this voyage of exploration was to improve knowledge of the Australian coastline for the growing amount of maritime traffic, and to identify the existence of inland rivers, still widely thought to exist.

With the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1816 the Royal Navy was severely reduced in size and capable officers were abundant, so the time was opportune for such a venture. Captain Thomas Hurd, *Hydrographer of the Navy*, who had, since 1808, proposed the establishment of a hydrographic service wrote;

*'The return to peace to this country makes me consider it as an official duty to represent to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the great deficiency of our nautical knowledge in almost every part of the world, but more particularly on the coastline of our own Dominions.....particularly a vast extent of coast on the north and west sides of New Holland....'*

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1 Captain Cook's *Endeavour Journal* Captain James Cook

2 Captain Hurd to the Admiralty 7<sup>th</sup> May 1814, quoted in '*Admiralty Hydrography Service 1795-1919*' Day A. London HMSO 1967

## HMS MERMAID

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 1817 the *Royal Naval Surveying Service* was established and Captain Hurd was quick to assemble a competent crew for the task. This was hampered by a lack of enthusiasm to provide resources for a such a venture, and in the end was only achieved with the support of Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for War and Colonies. So, a joint enterprise was launched between the Admiralty and the Colonial Office.



Phillip Parker King (1791-1856) was chosen as captain for this enterprise. He was the son of Philip Gidley King, second in command to Arthur Phillip on the First Fleet, and had served with distinction on several ships towards the end of the Napoleonic War. His navigational skills, diligence, sobriety and obedience had come to the attention of Captain Hurd, and in London in February 1817 he was introduced to the two midshipmen chosen to assist him, Frederick Bedwell and John Septimus Roe.

*“They were to be rated as Mates, paid 40 pounds a year and would immediately receive twenty pounds in advance. Once they started work there would be extra surveyors pay for all three – fifteen shillings a day for King, and five shillings each for the two midshipmen.”*

King received his instructions from Bathurst making it clear that he would have to find a suitable ship for exploration once he had arrived in Port Jackson (Sydney).

*‘SIR,*

*As His Majesty's Government has selected you for the command of an expedition which is to be fitted out in New South Wales, for the purpose of exploring the yet undiscovered Coast of New Holland, and for completing, if possible, the circumnavigation of that continent; you will proceed with all practicable expedition to Port Jackson, and you will, on your arrival, deliver to Governor Macquarie the accompanying despatches, which state the object which you have in view, and the means by which it is to be accomplished. The Governor will place at your disposal any colonial vessel which you may consider best calculated for the voyage, and you will concert with him as to the equipment of such vessel and avail yourself of his knowledge of the several persons in the colony, in order to select a crew on whom reliance can be placed for steadiness and subordination. Besides the persons necessary for the navigation of the vessel, you will receive on board Mr. A. Cunningham, a botanist, now in New South Wales, who has received the orders of Sir Joseph Banks to attend you;’*

<sup>3</sup> ‘King of the Australian Coast’ Marsden Hordern Miegunyah Press 1997

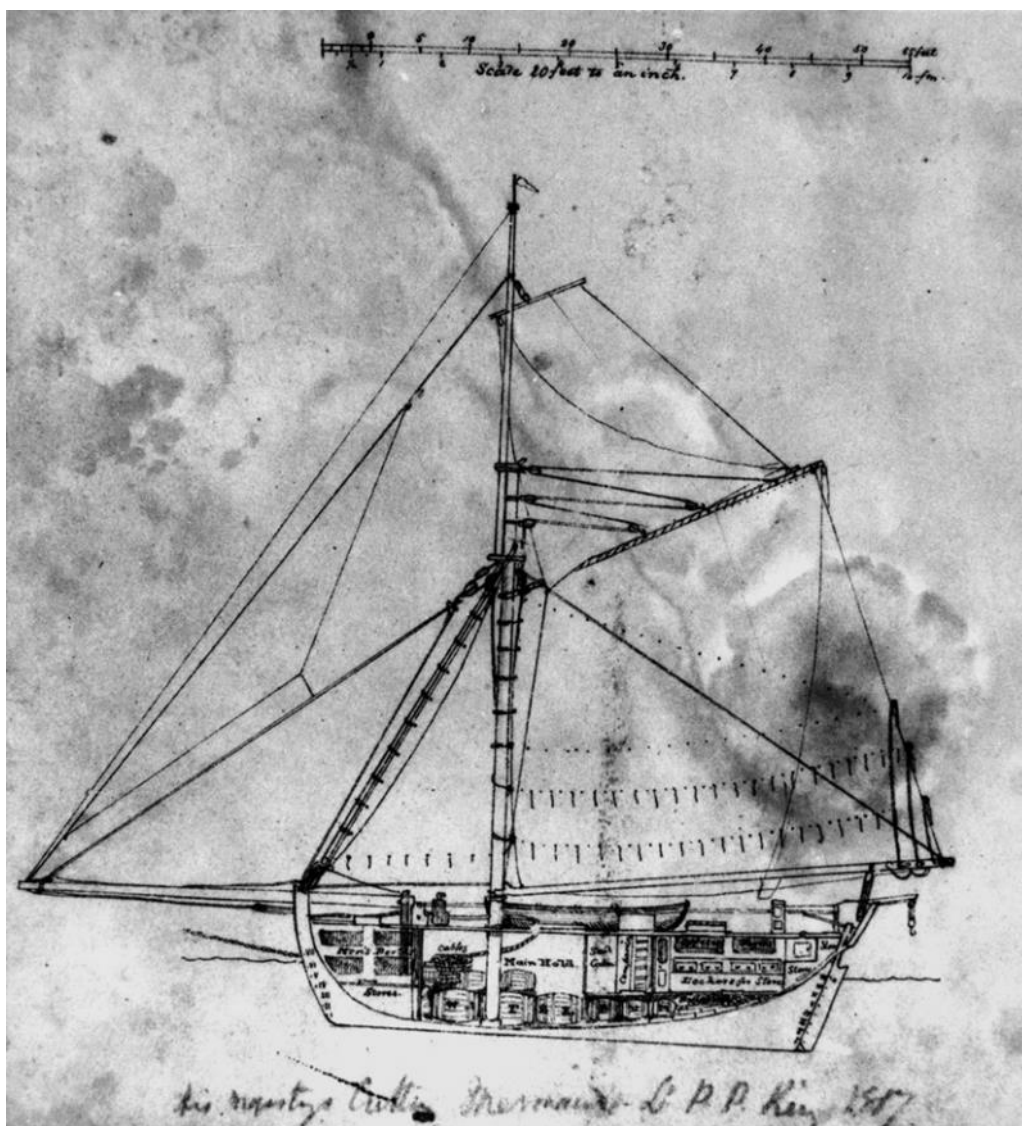
<sup>4</sup> Colonial Office Instructions see Appendix 1

## HMS MERMAID

King was further instructed, along with Bedwell and Roe to board the merchantman *Dick*, lying at Gravesend which would convey them to New South Wales along with the 48<sup>th</sup> Regiment. They left Gravesend on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 1817, and the voyage took 6½ months, arriving on the 3rd September.

Presenting himself to Governor Macquarie, King was able to proceed with the acquisition of a suitable ship. This was not without its problems, and it was not until September that the cutter *Mermaid* arrived in harbour. It had been built only nine months previously in India and was deemed suitable for the requirements of a voyage of discovery, requiring only minor alterations, which took two months to complete.

The *Mermaid* was only 17 metres (56 feet) long and 6 metres wide (18 feet), but it was to have a complement of 19, and be fitted out for a journey of exploration to the North West of the continent.



## HUNTER'S PAW PAW SAUCE — NICK SHAILER

In my collection I have a series of very old railway photos taken in the 1870s and 1880s of the construction of the line inland from Rockhampton. At the time, I did some research and identified the photographer as being Mr Lyne Brown who ended up in Cairns running his own photography studio and was also Mayor for a time.

Also in the photos I have, is a view of Townsville looking over Ross Creek to the town and hill.

Recently, I've done some more research and came across two photos the taken by him and printed in the North Queensland Register on Wednesday 28th July 1897 of "Hunters Paw Paw Sauce and Lemon Juice Factory " in Cairns.

By all reports from the time, both products were very popular throughout Queensland.

There is a newspaper shipping report (Brisbane Courier) from August 1897 that states that the Steamer Arawatta left Cairns on Sunday with 12,500 bunches of bananas, 150 bags of tin, cedar logs, 500 cases of fruit, eight hogshead and 30 cases of Hunters Paw Paw Sauce.

I have seen a Paw Paw Sauce Bottle and the lemon juice was marketed as "Kuranda Lemon Juice". It's a pity it must have been marketed in plain bottles. Hunters also produced Tomato sauce and Mango Chutney.

A regular add for the sauce appears in the Cairns paper reading:

Mary's Lamb

Mary had a little lamb

It's fleece as white as snow

and everywhere that Mary Went

The lamb was sure to go

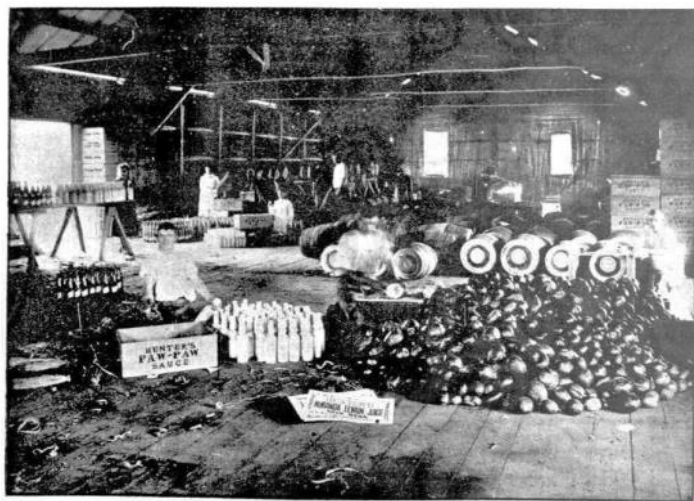
It followed her to school one day

Against the rules of cause

So of it was made a beautiful stew

With Hunter's Paw Paw Sauce

Even with all the glowing reports by May 1899 the company was in trouble and was up for sale. By June, as reported in the Townsville Evening Star, the factory had been sold to Mr J.J. Connolly a well known grocer of Charters Towers for 100 pounds. The sale included recipes, stock and plant, how ever Mr Hunter was continuing to produce his far-famed Kuranda Lemon Juice.

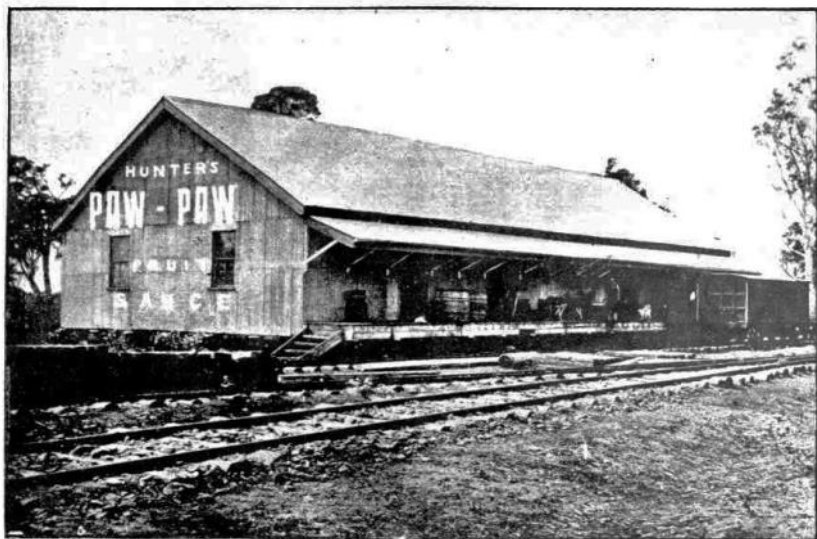


Nick Shailer

Hunter's Paw Paw Sauce, Cairns

Photographer: Lyne Brown

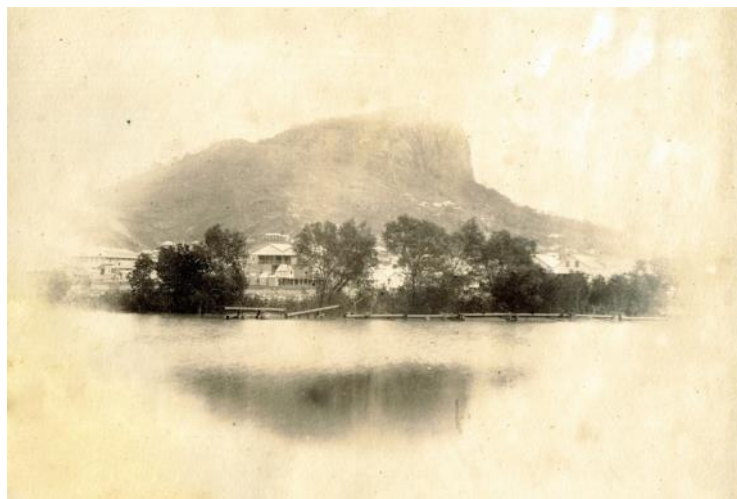
## HUNTER'S PAW PAW SAUCE — NICK SHAILER



EXTERIOR HUNTER'S SAUCE AND LEMON JUICE FACTORY, CAIRNS, SHOWING RAILWAY SIDING. (Photo by Lyne Brown)

Above Left: Exterior Hunter's Sauce and Lemon Juice Factory, Cairns, Showing Railway Siding Photographer: Lyne Brown

Left: Townsville c1880 Photographer: Lyne Brown



### Hannah Maclurcan's Pawpaw Sauce Recipe

1 pawpaw	Black pepper
2 tablespoonfuls Worcester Sauce	1/2 cupful vinegar
1 teaspoonful mustard	1/2 cupful water

Mode: Get a good sized pawpaw not quite ripe, cut into small pieces, put in the saucepan with the sauce, water and vinegar, boil for two hours; if the pawpaw is not quite dissolved take it out and pound up until quite smooth, add the mustard and black pepper, stir the pawpaw back into the saucepan, take care there are no lumps, allow to boil again for ten minutes. When cold put into a bottle; serve with cold meat.

# TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM OPEN DAY—19 MAY 2019

In an initiative by CityLibraries, Townsville's museums are encouraged to hold an Open Day for members of the public and their families to visit our museums and engage with history. We held our Open Day on a Sunday, 19th May, from noon to 3.30pm, so it was perfect timing to have a sausage sizzle as well. We had more than a hundred visitors through the Museum and many, many favourable comments. The theme chosen was "Children's Party" and Nick brought along some old fashioned games and he displayed some child-centred artefacts on a table which was very popular, especially the mouth organs!!!! Below are some images from the day.



Open Day – clockwise from top left: Lydia and Nick at the toy display, a few visitors milling around the covered area, Petra, Fay and Sue playing old time families in the cut outs, and two lovely images of John and Lyn's granddaughter, Kaitlyn.



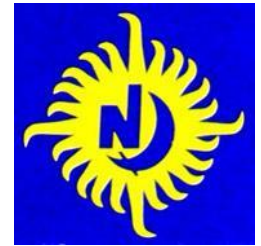
More images from the Townsville Museum Open Day. Fun with the cutout figures: Noel, Fay and Trish, Lydia, and Wendy.



Clockwise from top left: Hopscotchers, horseshoe throw direction, Sue and Wendy on the counter, Sue and Geoff on the bbq stall, family fun at the cutouts. [Photos by Katie Pittock]



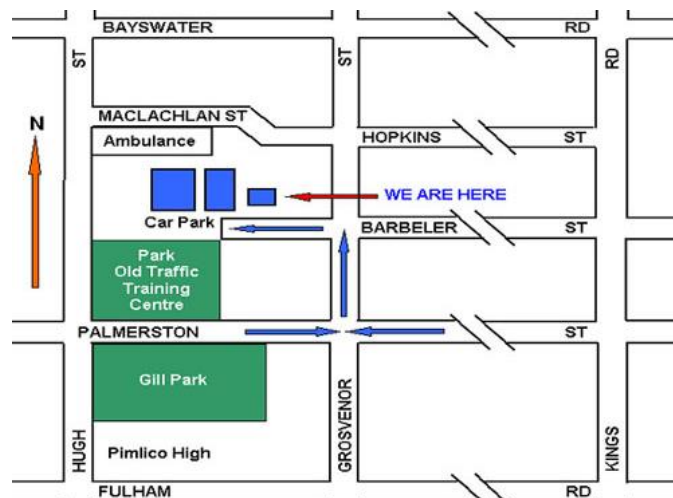
Congratulations, Ray! Ray with his new granddaughter, Piper Grace, who was born earlier this year. Such a lovely image of both of them.



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**TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
 2019-2020**

**A membership renewal form is attached to this newsletter.  
 We appreciate your support!**

**OUR SUPPORTERS**



Support  
 The  
 Groups  
 That  
 Support your  
 Museum

