



NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This year started as a very challenging one for the Museum. In January we faced flooding once again but thankfully the staff at Townsville City Council Property came to our rescue by providing sandbags and plastic sheeting to stop excess water entering the Museum. Letters of thanks were sent to the Mayor, the CEO and Manager of Property showing our appreciation for their support.

As always the Museum is looking for volunteers. People who have retired and have a genuine interest in history we would love to hear from. There are times when the Museum is busy with visitors and school visits and there are times when there is not a lot of activity and the volunteers can assist with new displays, watering the garden, cleaning artefacts and displays, but most of all be prepared for a “social” day at the Museum. If you think you can fit this criteria give us a call between 9am – 2pm Monday to Friday on 4775 7838. The Museum has been preserving Townsville’s history since 1985 and its continuation is important to this City.

Later in the year in September, Townsville will be celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the raising of the first Australian flag by His Excellency, the Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun. The Museum will have a special display for this event which will be well worth a visit. Check our Facebook page for further details.

Coming soon is a new Museum Website thanks to a Grant from the Gambling Benefits Fund.

Until next time,
Trish Cronin
President

IN THIS EDITION

The Pooladium
Wendy’s Pic
Nick’s History Bits
The Townsville Bowls Club
and more

NEWS

Upcoming events

Keep an eye out for the “I Grew Up In Townsville” open day at the museum in July
Date to be announced

The Centenary of Federation 125th anniversary is in September.
We will have a new display plus make sure you keep an eye out for other events around Townsville

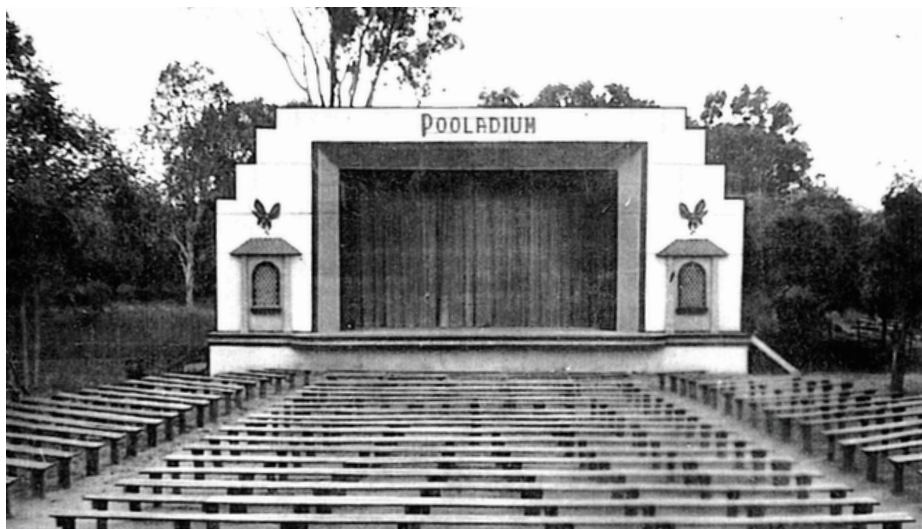
VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Townsville Museum and Historical Society is urgently seeking volunteers to assist with the daily operation of the museum. Tasks and roles can vary from guiding guests through the museum to photography, data entry or maintenance and cleaning of museum displays and exhibits. If you are interested, please send us an email at admin@townsvillemuseum.com.au or call us on 4775 7838.

The Pooladium

The Royal Australian Air Force established a Base Pool Camp at Aitkenvale during WW2. It was by Wakeford Street on the western boundary, Meadowbrook Drive and Grant Avenue on the eastern boundary, Burt Street on the northern boundary, and Ross River on the southern boundary. It was comprised of numerous prefabricated huts on concrete floor for accommodation. Other buildings included kitchen and mess facilities, stores buildings, ablution blocks, latrines, a barracks store, an equipment store, administration hut, post office, hospital buildings, and theatre stage.

No. 1 Reserve Personnel Pool RAAF (1RPP) was based at this Base Pool Camp. 1 RPP had been established on 12 November 1942. No. 1 Reserve Personnel Pool was disbanded on 15 April 1946. Over the life of the unit a total of 133,606 personnel were moved through the unit, 66,804 personnel coming into the unit and the same number leaving the unit. However, this was not the last time the camp was used by the RAAF. During March 1946, No. 35 Squadron was accommodated at the ex AWC



Camp near the end of the main runway and were flooded out as result of cyclonic weather. They were moved to the empty No 1 RPP Camp area till disbandment in June 1946.

A new open air picture theatre/stage with a seating capacity for 1,200 personnel was opened at the Pool Camp on 29 October 1944. This theatre was named the "Pooladium". It was a combination of how No 1 RPP was known by personnel at the camp, "the pool" and the association of the word Palladium with theatres. Seating was on bench seats.

Almost immediately after the war the Commonwealth started disposal of the many assets throughout Australia that were not part of normal defence facilities.

Early in 1947 the Commonwealth conducted a number of auctions at the No 1 RPP Camp area to dispose of assets no longer required. Mr George O'Keefe purchased the Pooladium and moved it to the corner of Ross River Road and Charlotte Street in Aitkenvale to form the basis of a new cinema and dance hall. The new cinema was renamed the Palladium – after the London Palladium but a clear nod to its original name.

Come and see us

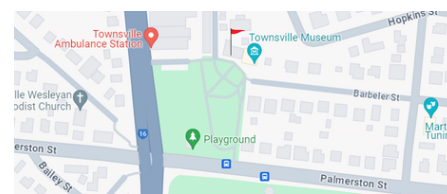
1/27 Barbeler Street,
Currajong QLD 4812

Open Monday to Friday
09:00am until 02:30pm



Membership Fees

Single \$15
Family \$30
Corporate \$32.5



Contact us

07 4775 7838
admin@townsvillemuseum.com.au
www.townsvillemuseum.com.au



Wendy's Pic

This lovely photo of the Cenotaph in ANZAC Park was donated to the Museum by D. Johnson. The photo was taken in 1931 and features the Cenotaph in the middle ground with a viewer sitting on one of the park benches. The palm trees are in abundance, but the grand old banyan fig trees do not fill the footpath area as they do in 2026.

The Cenotaph foundation stone was laid on July 19th 1923 by the then Mayor in the presence of many attendees, notably a Commander Souter from the destroyer flotilla who also addressed the audience. [Saturday 21 July 1923, page 9, The Soldiers' Memorial, Townsville Daily Bulletin]. By 1937, Townsville held its first dawn parade in ANZAC Memorial Park where 130 diggers fell in at the water's edge

and marched up to the cenotaph on the sound of Reveille. Later in the afternoon, wreaths were laid here. [Monday 26th April 1937, page 8, Townsville Observance. Cairns Post.] Note the area beyond the cenotaph was beach then, contrasting sharply with today, where the beach has disappeared, the park land is extended and now the marina occupies the background area.

Mrs Maclurcan's Cookery Book

Mrs Maclurcan's Cookery Book was first published in Townsville in 1889 by hotelier and cook Hannah Maclurcan. It went on to be published a staggering 20 times until 1930. The third edition was published in London with a copy being presented to Queen Victoria.

680—LEMON CAKE.

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour	2 eggs.
5 ozs. butter	5 ozs. sugar
1 lemon	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
Teaspoonful Elliott's Queens-land baking powder.	Candied lemon peel

MODE.—Sift the flour and baking powder together; beat the butter and sugar to a cream, then beat the eggs well and add to the butter and sugar, grate in the rind of

the lemon and add the juice of half, then by degrees and alternately add the flour and the milk, have ready some round bottomed cup moulds or patty pans, well greased, half fill with the mixture, place a strip of lemon peel on each and bake fifteen or twenty minutes. If baked in the round cup moulds they look like half lemons when turned out.

Continued from our last newsletter.

Nick's History Bits

But we are getting ahead of our story; some 40 years ago Sir Samuel Griffith was in power in Queensland, and it occurred to some of the longest headed Ross Islanders, that it would be a good opportunity to press for a railway from the Eastern Jetty to the main line near the railway bridge, West End. It was a forlorn hope but if they asked for it in 1885 their children might ride over it in 1905. There is nothing like looking forward, as the man said as he dodged a motor cycle coming at him at 100 miles per hour.

Sir Samuel Griffith came north and though entertained at a banquet on the Flinders Street side, was coldly unsympathetic to all requests they made. The next day he visited the island home of his devoted subjects and received a deputation of faithful, fervent followers. Among them may be mentioned, Murdock Cameron (largest land owner on the island), Wm. Martin, N.R. Davies, A.M. Piegrome, Tom Page, J.E. Clegg and others. They asked for many things, large and small, and all were

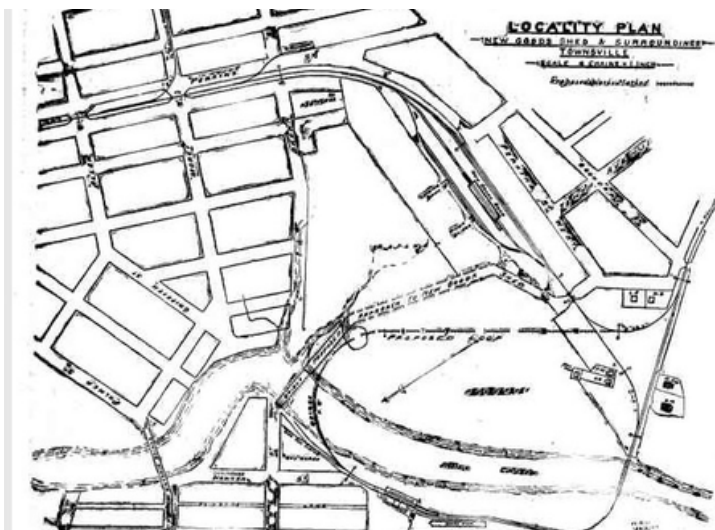


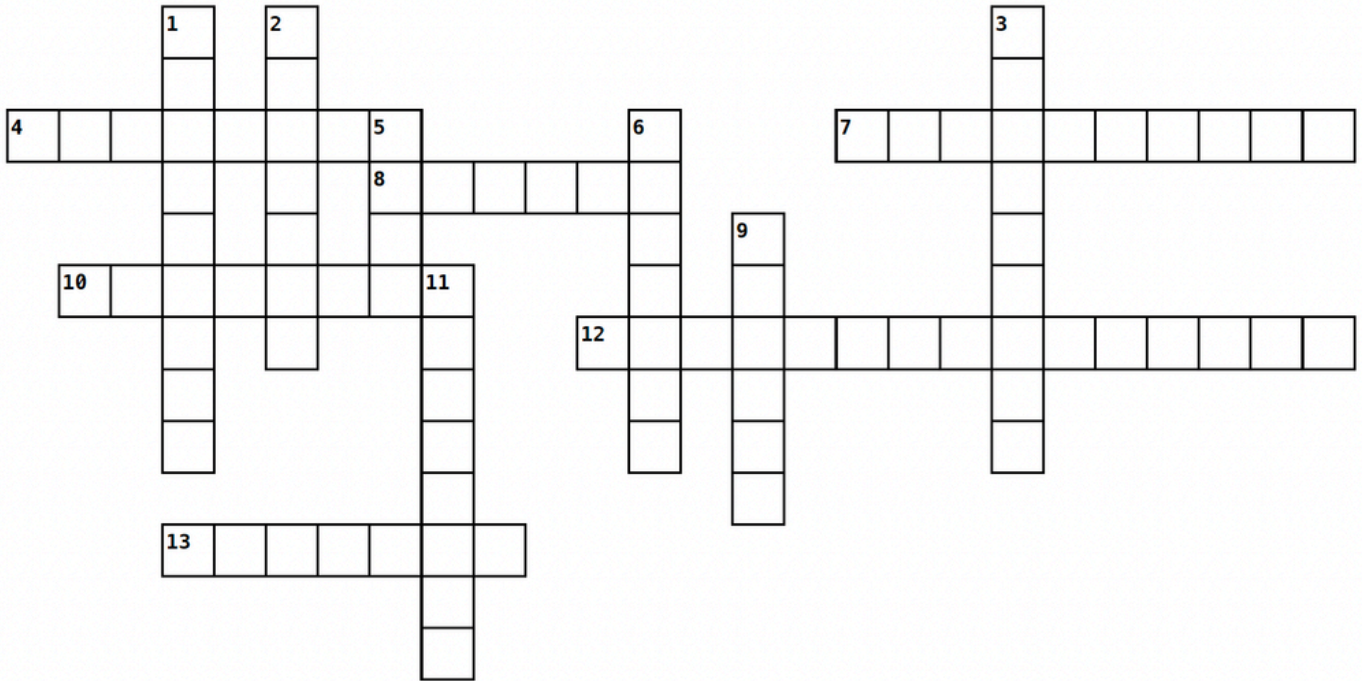
granted. Then came the greatest of all. Mr M. Cameron was deputed to make the request; and that was for a line from the Towers railway to the Eastern Jetty, which would enable great ships to load and unload cargo direct, reduce costs, enhance trade and confer everlasting prosperity on Ross Island, which most outrageously had been kept out of its own.

And it came off; Sir Samuel never turned a hair. He smiled on his tried and trusted supporters, and just when they expected him, in a sorrowing voice, to remark that the scheme was a great one, but premature, and that it could only be considered that day ten years, he spoke up and said "Gentlemen, I recognise the truth of your contention, the line shall be laid and speedily." Never had a deputation a more pleasurable shock, and within a couple of years the line, as we know it now, came into existence.

This concession of Sir Samuel's was a staggerer for the north siders, who then played their last card, the Creek Scheme mentioned above. In the meantime the Palmer – Stoke streets swing bridge was built, Palmer street made, and the island settlement steadily expanded.

To be continued...





Across

Down

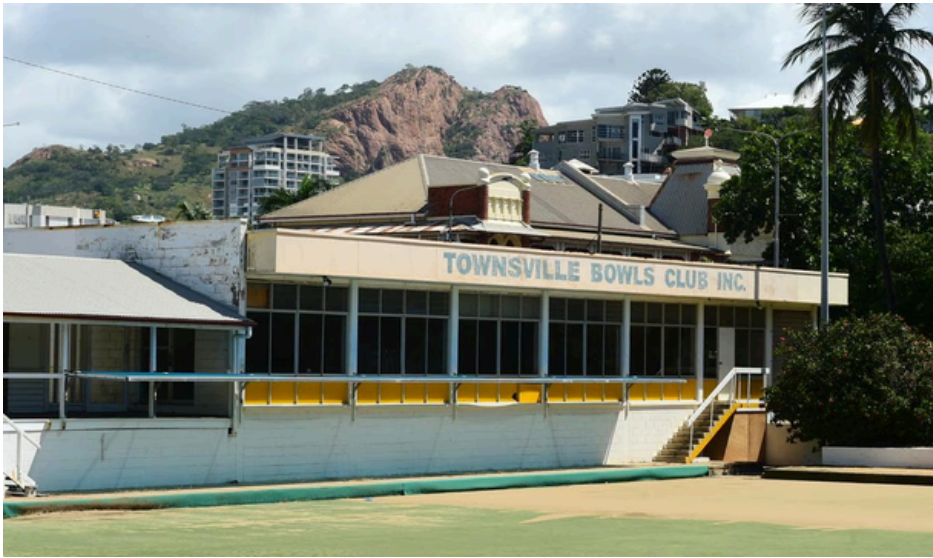
- 4.** The original name of The Ville Casino
- 7.** In 2008 Townsville amalgamated with...
- 8.** A category 4 cyclone that hit Townsville in 1971
- 10.** Public pools next to the Ross River in Thuringowa Central
- 12.** The first mayor of Townsville
- 13.** Name of the army barracks located at the Strand

- 1.** NQ's biennial portrait competition
- 2.** Sunday Markets in Flinders Street
- 3.** Suburb the museum is located in
- 5.** Acronym for Townsville's yearly arts festival
- 6.** A rocky islet northwest of Magnetic Island that once had a lighthouse
- 9.** A kind of fig tree common along the Strand
- 11.** Traditional name for Magnetic Island

Then vs Now



Townsville Bowls Club - a panacea for the ills of the world



one being that the Council could take the land back (after the expiration of the term of the lease) if it felt that the land was required for other purposes. Plans and specifications for the green itself and all buildings proposed for the site had to first be approved by Council. There was also a requirement for the club to allow "ratepayers and the public to have the option at all times of viewing from the banks all games played upon the green."

Townsville's first bowling green, on The Strand, opposite the Criterion Hotel, was widely expected to be "one of the panaceas for all the worries and ills known to mankind." The Townsville Daily Bulletin made this rather ambitious statement in May 1914 when it reported on the progress of the search for a suitable location for a bowling green. Sites at The Strand, the grounds of Reception House, the Sports Reserve, Cameron Park, and West End were all considered, before a small parcel of land on The Strand was chosen.

Since there were already 70 people interested in becoming members of the Townsville Bowling Club - if a green could indeed be built - the Townsville Daily Bulletin predicted:

... it is now practically certain that before long Townsville will possess its bowling green, which the local citizens, both old and young, will soon learn to appreciate as the

source of many hours' keen enjoyment, and as one of the panaceas for all the worries and ills known to mankind.

The Townsville Council soon resolved to grant the Club a 15-year lease for a parcel of land on what was known as the Strand Park Reserve for the purposes of laying down a bowling green. There were a few conditions on the lease,

The official opening of the bowling green took place in July 1915, though the green had reportedly been in use for some weeks before the official opening. The green itself had cost £579 14s 2p, and the building and fittings £106 9s. The Townsville Daily Bulletin reported on the opening: The green looked very attractive on the occasion, and the fence had been decked with flags,



The gates of the Townsville Bowling Club, still standing after Cyclone Althea, December 1971. Note the word 'Bowling' is spelled in full, while the top photo reads 'Bowls'. Photo: Townsville Bowls Club.

whilst over the pavilion floated the Australian flag and the club colors. The ceremony was timed for 2.30 and shortly after that hour, a large number of members and guests were present, the latter including a number of ladies, who were received by Mrs W. Hunt, the wife of the President of the Club.

At its official opening, the Club boasted 10 life members, 10 country members, and 144 ordinary members. All members were men. Membership was not open to women, though the Bulletin reporter suspected that the women who attended the official opening might have liked to become members, noting: "Interest was taken in the games, and several feminine voices were heard regretting that ladies were not eligible for membership to the Club." The Club did eventually allow the "ladies" to get involved, and not just in preparing the afternoon tea!

In 1991 - in a move that was probably as controversial as allowing ladies to become members - the Club converted the green to synthetic turf. Membership numbers reportedly dropped significantly after this.

Long outlasting its initial 15-year lease, the Townsville Bowling Club (the name was later shortened to Townsville Bowls Club) ran for 100 years. It closed its doors at the end of 2015. The site is now a pretty sad reminder of the glory days of the Club, though the vintage gates are still rather fabulous. Pictured below, they survived the onslaught of Cyclone Althea in December 1971 and are still standing proud today.



Gates of the former Townsville Bowls Club, The Strand, Townsville, August 2021.
Photo: Trisha Fielding.

You can find this article and more by Trisha Fielding on her blog: northqueenslandhistory.blogspot.com

Recent Donations

We were pleased to recently acquire the gate from the Townsville Bowls Club from the council. It has since been announced that they are going ahead with demolishing the building to make way for new developments.

Some other recent donations include a fantastic, meters long sketch of Castle Hill and surrounds by Errol Great as well as some artefacts from the Carramar Children's Home.

Crossword Answers:

1. Percivals
2. Cotters
3. Currajong
4. Sheraton
5. NAFA
6. Bay Rock
7. Thuringowa
8. Althea
9. Banyan
10. Riverway
11. Yunbenun
12. John Melton Black
13. Jezzine

Thanks to our Supporters

SUPPORTED BY



McGrath

McGrath Real Estate Townsville
71 Eyre St., North Ward QLD 4810
4781 0500

