NEWSLETTER



IN THIS EDITION

Wendy's Pic
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and more

NEWS

Check out our new look website!



MUSEUM OPEN DAY

Thank you to everyone who came to see us at the museum on our open day in July.
We had a great turn out with over a hundred visitors, many who were visiting us for the first time.







Air Raid Precautions 1939



The public class in air raid precaution work was opened by His Worship the Mayor (Ald. J. S. Gill) In the Ambulance Booms on Monday morning. The class, it will be recalled, is one of the outcomes of a public meeting held in the Town Hall recently and the appointment of an executive committee for Townsville, comprising the Mayor, the local Inspector of Police and the local Government Medical Officer. The instructor of the class, which concludes next Tuesday, is Captain N. Rutherford with Senior Sergeant W. Kiddell, and Detective-Sergeant F. J. Voigt assistant Instructors.

After the class had assembled on Monday morning, with the Executive Committee The Mayor Alderman Gill, Inspector G. Loch and Dr. L. Halberastater presiding, His Worship expressed his pleasure at welcoming those attending; at the same time, he congratulated Captain Rutherford and Senior Sergeant Kiddell on the good work they had already performed on their tour of instruction, which would extend to all centres from Brisbane to Cairns. Alderman Gill also took advantage of the opportunity to refer to the attitude taken by the Townsville City Council on the subject of air raid precautions when the Department of Health and Home Affairs had requested local authorities to appoint representatives to attend the schools of instruction recently held in Brisbane.

The Council, he pointed out, had considered that a better purpose would be served if representatives were sent from Brisbane to the coastal centres to instruct classes there, and the department had now acted on the suggestion. His Worship expressed his gratification at seeing such a fine class, thoroughly representative of the city of Townsville attending. Some people, he continued, seemed to think that it was premature for air raid precautions to be taken in Australia, but his opinion was that they should be governed by what the Federal and the State Governments believed was likely to happen. He personally was sure that they were taking the right course inaugurating such important work. It was obvious from the trend of reports of events overseas that there could be no certainty of future events, even in the next few days, while he personally thought Australia had a foe much nearer than Europe. The Mayor assured the instructors that they would have apt pupils who would be only too able after their course of instruction had ended, to impart the knowledge they had obtained to the public generally. He mentioned that two public holidays were occurring during the term of the class, namely Anzac Day and May Day, but even then they would have five full days for Instruction purposes. He expressed his gratification at the decision not

to continue the class on Anzac Day. "We do believe," he said, "that we should keep that one day in the year sacred to those who did so much for us in the war." The class would be completed on the day after May Day, when the instructors would continue on to Bowen for a similar class there. The executive in Townsville wished the class every success.

Dr Halberstater endorsed the remarks of the Mayor. Addressing the class he said, "You know what you have to do. There is a grave responsibility on you. You are a picked class of men and you will have to go out and disseminate your knowledge. We know what to expect from you, and we know what we will get."

Inspector Loch pointing out that whereas defence of the country was the province of the Commonwealth, the protection of civilian populations was that of the state, said that this was the reason for which the State Government had formulated these classes. He felt sure there was no necessity to impress on them necessity of paying particular attention to the instruction they were about to receive, because it was on them that the executive would depend for knowledge and advice in the event of air raids. They wanted this information imparted not only to essential services but to all sections of the community. He complimented the selectors on their choice of candidates for the class, and expressed his full conviction that they would do their job.

His Worship, before declaring the class officially open, pointed out that the City Council was primarily called on to protect its citizens, particularly the women and the children. Despite the short time allotted for the course, he was sure that they would be well prepared to carry out their job.

The class open, Captain Rutherford expressed on behalf of himself and Senior-Sergeant Kiddell, their pleasure at being enabled to attend, and also at having the assistance of Detective Sergeant Voight. It would be lack of gratitude on their part if they did not express their appreciation of their splendid reception here, and the assistance that the livewire executive had given them. He was sure that the class would not let the executive down when they required support.

Captain Rutherford emphasised that though the course now being given was of shorter duration than those in Brisbane, no sacrifice of efficiency had occurred. In giving these courses in the coastal towns and cities he would be away from home for three months at least. The course had been confined to the essential points. He went on to describe briefly details of the course given in Brisbane which it had been possible to eliminate in those now being undertaken. During his remarks, he pointed out that the course was not for specialists only - it was a plain course given in a plain manner. It was progressive, and as it progressed those being instructed, even if they found difficulty in assimilating fully the opening phrases, would find all phrases working in together and becoming clearer to grasp. The principle object to the course was to fit the class to give any assistance that the executive committee might require, and the magnitude of the committee's task was such that they would be sure to need it. He lectured them on the generalities of the course they were to take part in, and then began the detail of routine instruction.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS. (1939, April 25). The Townsville Daily Bulletin (Qld. : 1907 - 1909 ; 1912 - 1966), p. 12.

Come and see us

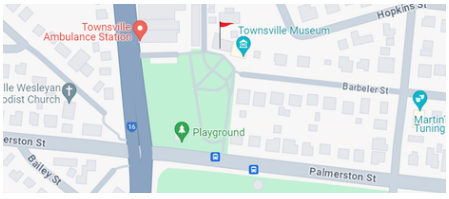
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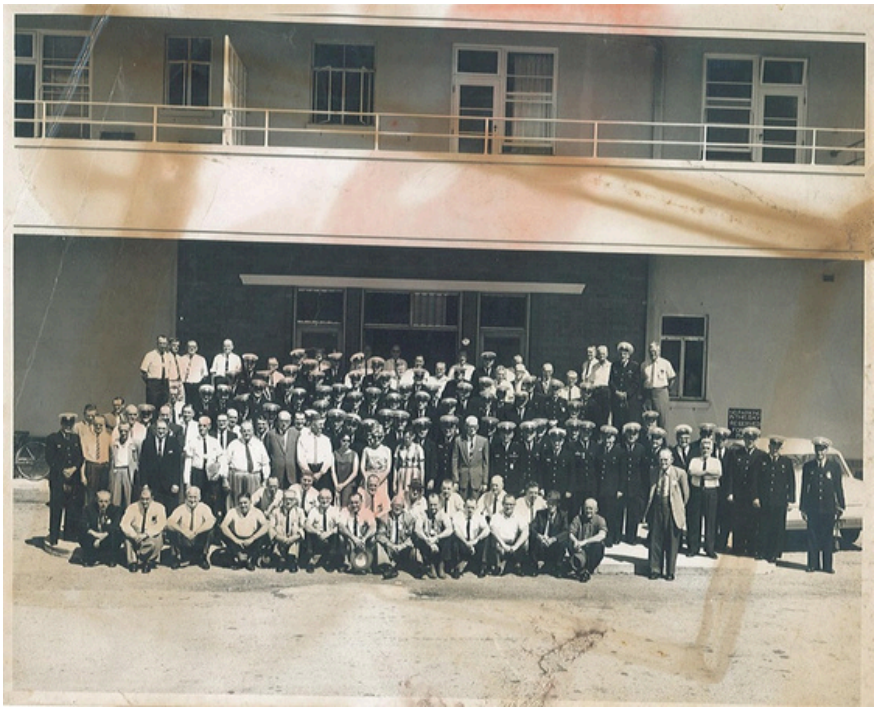
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Sue's Spot

Fred Buck "Bucko" was born at Irvinebank in 1923. He won a parcel of land in a lottery and moved to the Atherton Tablelands where he raised, with his wife Patsy, three children.
In his working life Buck was a dairy farmer, a timber cutter, a dedicated Townsville QATB Officer, an ambo who lived by their motto Available at any hour – READY ALWAYS.
Fred was awarded the QATB National Medal for 25 years service. NO SICKIES AND NEVER LATE.
Fred passed away in 2014 survived by his son Frederick and daughter Lois.





This months recipe pick from Mrs Maclercan's Cookery Book

139.—BRAINS IN TORTURE.

Brains
2 lemons (juice)
2 eggs
Pepper and salt.

Mode.—Boil the brains in half a pint of water with a little salt, strain and cut up the brains (not too small), beat up the eggs, mix in with lemon juice and a little of the water in which the brains has been boiled. Be sure you put the eggs in the lemon and stir the one way or it will curdle; then put it on with the brains to boil, stirring all the time; when it boils it is ready for use.





Wendy's Pics

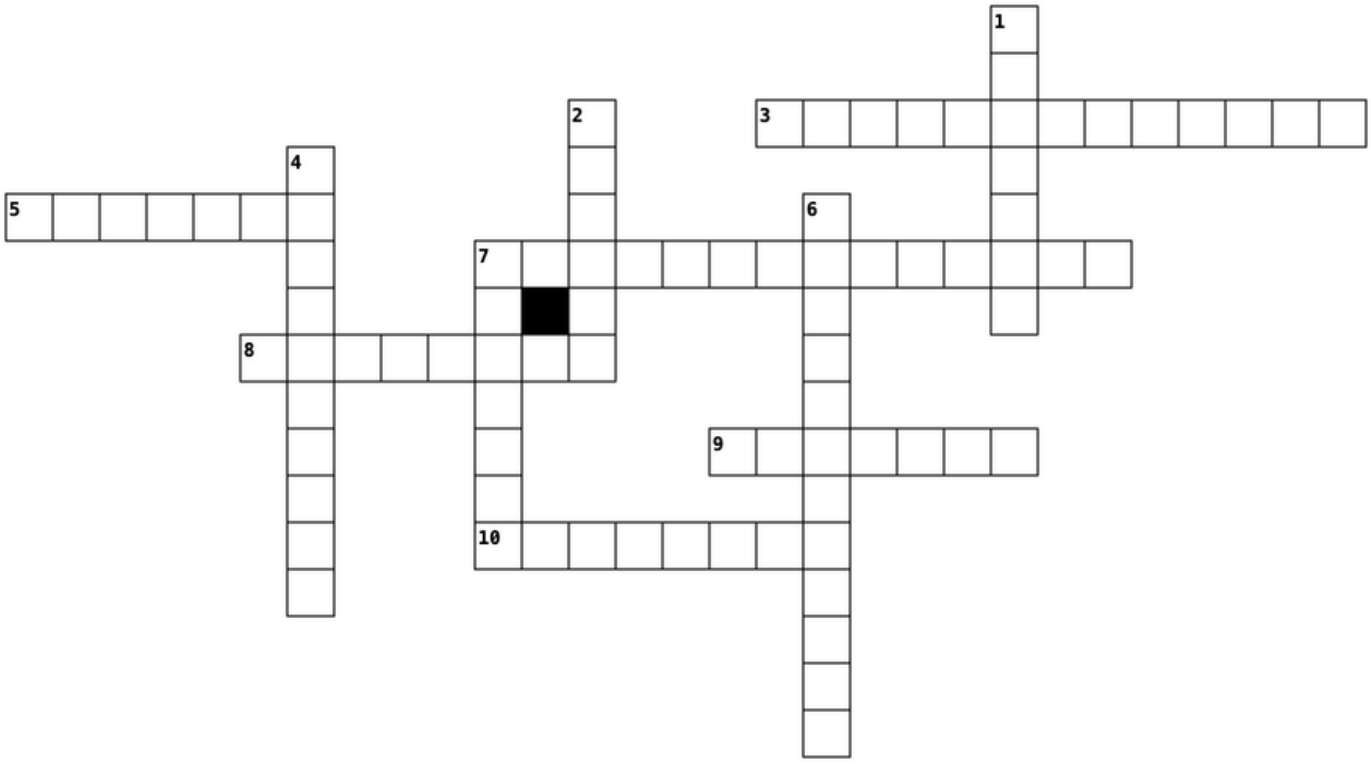
THE WATER SUPPLY
Mr Mulholland's Report
SALTWATER CREEK RECOMMENDED

The report upon the Townsville Water supply by Mr J. Mulholland, M.Sc. M.E., of the Water and Irrigation Department, has been received by the Townsville City Council.
In a covering letter, the Secretary of the Department (Mr Grant Thomson) stated it would be noticed that reference had been made to seven different sources of supply: (1) Ross River; (2) Alligator Creek; (3) Black River; (4) Burdekin River; (5) Herbert River; (6) Keelbottom Creek; (7) Saltwater Creek. The existing weir in Ross River had a storage of 830,000.000 gallons, and it was anticipated that if the next wet season were a normal one, that there would not be a repetition of the unfortunate conditions that prevailed during last year, which were brought about by the damage that occurred at the weir in January, 1934, followed by a severe drought, as the present storage should be sufficient to meet demands for some years to come, but it was urged very strongly that a further scheme be constructed within the next ten years.



Mr Mulholland's report narrows down the possible sources of supply to: (a) the Saltwater Creek (Mt Spec area); and (b) the Keelbottom Creek (upper Burdekin area). He favours the development of the Saltwater Creek supply for Townsville's requirements, at a cost of £839,000 for a rock-fill storage dam, and £747,000 if a concrete masonry dam was built.

THE WATER SUPPLY. (1935, November 22). The Townsville Daily Bulletin (Qld. : 1907 - 1909 ; 1912 - 1966), p. 9.



Across

3. What heritage listed hotel was recently destroyed by fire

5. A shipwreck off the coast of Townsville from 1911

7. The traditional name for Townsville

8. The name of Townsville's army base

9. The category 3 cyclone that hit Townsville in 2024

10. Biennial public art festival at the Strand

Down

1. Name of the replica ship inside QLD Museum Tropics

2. Name of the pools on the southern side of the Strand

4. What suburb was the quarantine station located in 1915

6. The theatre built in 1927 in Sturt Street. Demolished in 1991

7. What kind of rock is Castle Hill made up of

Mayors Visit

We recently had a visit from our Mayor, Councillor Nick Dametto. Thank you for coming to visit the museum, we appreciate your support.



Nick's History Bits

Continued from our last newsletter.

But old methods dies hard; it was over ten years before the line laid by Sir Samuel Griffith was used to any extent in connection with the Eastern Jetty.
We should be unfaithful narrators, and unjust to the memories of those who fought for the Eastern Jetty railway, were we not to mention the enthusiastic celebration of the completion of the line known to this day as the "Driving the Last Dog."



Mr. Cameron, one of the prime movers in the establishment of this line, performed the ceremony and with a hammer drove the last "dog" home. Then there was speechifying in which the future of Ross Island was optimistically outlined. The line opened up vast possibilities of stately ships riding in the harbour, great warehouses dotting the island, and splendid manufactories covering extensive obtrusive salt pans from sight. All this, and more, had been rendered possible by the statemanship, the generosity, the farsightedness, of their great leader, Sir Samuel.

To make the gathering a more convivial one, the committee of management had provided a hogshead of beer for visitors, which included those working on the line. It was a hot afternoon, the visitors, invited and uninvited, were many, and, comparatively speaking, the gallons were few. Before the termination of the speeches the hogshead ran dry. This exasperated the multitude.
Those who had taken too much beer, and those, who coming late, had not assimilated enough, were equally indignant and, in language that would have shocked a court orderly, freely denounced the parsimony of the entertainment managers. When it became evident the speeches were of greater quantity than, and certainly not of equal quality to the beer, there was a general move to bring the entertainment to a close. The speakers were heckled, one man exclaiming, "If Sir Samuel was as good as you say why was the supply of beer so limited?" No satisfactory answer being given to this question, the querists advanced on the temporary table with such anger and earnestness, that the party broke up hurriedly, before the toasts of "The Mayor," "The Ladies," and "The Press" could be duly honoured. The fact that the hard tack had given out, and only lemonade remained to honour the toasts, may account for the hastily abbreviated character of the function.



To be continued...

The Day Castle Hill Became A Mountain

In July 1980, a group of high school students embarked on a monolithic quest. Their goal was to add enough soil to the top of Castle Hill to make it high enough to be classified as a mountain.

The project was designed to raise funds that would go towards the erection of an assembly hall at the Heatley State High School. Although the school had been operating since 1968, it still lacked many of the facilities that modern schools now take for granted from day one.

The fundraising stunt became front-page news in the Townsville Daily Bulletin. The report read:

Hundreds of students from Heatley High School converged on Townsville's Castle Hill yesterday – and turned it, for a time, into a mountain.

The students, carrying buckets of soil, marched up the hill in a sponsored "mountathon" designed to yield funds for the school's planned new assembly hall and gymnasium.

At the top of the hill the soil was poured into a wooden pyramid three metres high – enough to push Castle Hill into the "mountain" class. The hill is just that much too short to qualify.

The pyramid, dismantled later, bore a plaque that was unveiled by Townsville Mayor Perc Tucker, who told the students:



"We are now standing on top of what, for a short time anyway, is officially Castle Mountain."

"You may be interested to know that your project today has given Castle Hill its proper status."

"The hill is officially called Cutheringa Mountain – so the person who named it must have known this would happen one day."

The construction of the makeshift, timber pyramid was supervised by manual arts teacher, Mike Harris, who planted a flag in the soil at the top of the three-metre structure.

The plaque attached to the pyramid read:
"Mt. Cutheringa, officially created by Heatley High, 8th July 1980, unveiled by the Mayor of Townsville, Ald. Perc Tucker."



However, the Bulletin article carried a footnote that must have dampened some of the excitement of the achievement, noting:

"The Department of Mapping and Survey yesterday put the height of Castle Hill at 275.8 metres – 18.9 metres short of the height conventionally accepted as "mountain" status."

"The Oxford Dictionary puts this height at 304.8 metres, or 1,000 feet."

Mr Murray Fielding, a former student at the school, who was 14 when he participated in the fundraiser, recalls the event with fondness.

"We each carried two buckets of dirt up the hill. When we reached the top, we passed the buckets along, hand over hand, like a production line," Mr Fielding said.

A highlight of the day for Mr Fielding was the visit by the Mayor, Perc Tucker. "My mates and I loved it when Perc Tucker drove up to the top of the hill in his HX, LE Monaro. It was a beautiful car. It was maroon and had gold mag wheels," he said.

Crossword Answers:

1. Pandora
2. Tobruk
3. Great Northern
4. Pallaranda
5. Yongala
6. Wintergarden

7a. Garrumbilburra
7d. Granite

8. Lavarack
9. Kirrily
10. Ephemera

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

The photographs are from our collection at the museum

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