



North Stradbroke Island MUSEUM on Minjerribah



NSI Historical Museum gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Sibelco Australia in the production of this Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER

15-17 Welsby Street, Goompi (Dunwich)
If not delivered, return to PO Box 80, Dunwich 4183
www.stradbroke-museum.com.au
info@stradbroke-museum.com.au
Ph: 3409 9699

Cambus Wallace Lands on the Island—Again!

A beautiful model of the ship *Cambus Wallace* has been donated by its maker, Bruce Buchanan.

The *Cambus Wallace* had sailed from Glasgow in 1894, bound for Brisbane, but was blown off course in a serious storm. Stradbroke was still one Island, and the ship was wrecked on the ocean side of the isthmus of land which, at the time, kept the Island together. The crew were forced to swim to shore—five tragically died.

It is believed the work of salvaging the *Cambus Wallace*—in particular the detonation of its large cargo of explosives—weakened the thin strip of land. In 1898 another huge storm caused the narrow passage to break through, creating Jumpinpin and separating Stradbroke Island into two. Bruce painstakingly created this intricate



Heritage architect and model ship builder Bruce Buchanan carefully installing his model of the *Cambus Wallace* in the Museum's maritime gallery.

model over 30 years ago, using rare drawings and photographs of the ship. He generously donated the model and a display case to the Museum. It is well worth a visit.

Volume 26 No 4
Summer Edition
December 2018

Inside this issue:

Grave Additions	2
Letter to the Editor	2
Museum Gana	2
Moving Church Service	3
Bohemia	3
Museum AGM	3
Vale Aunty Donna and Aunty Thelma	4
Christmas Shopping	4

Straddie Family Fun Day

Redland City Council held a Family Fun Day at the Museum during the September School Holidays. Glen Rhodes performed his "Science Magic Show". Children experienced some totally mystifying magic tricks, stunts and illusions, and enjoyed their morning tea under the Bombala tree.



The Museum acknowledges the Quandamooka people as the owners and custodians of the lands and waters on which the Museum operates. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Letter to the Editor

"On a visit to your museum earlier in the year it became apparent that there was no record of the support given to the creation of an ambulance station in the Redlands area by the people of Dunwich.

In 1946 the wife of a well-known small-crops farmer at Thornlands died during childbirth and it was recognised by most people that her life could probably have been saved if an ambulance service had been available for her. The people of the area thereby organised a money raising programme,

One of the ways that the Dunwich people contributed was for some of the aboriginal lads to compete in a boxing competition exhibition at a fete which was held in the area which has since become the shopping centre of Raby Bay.

Hoping that the above is of some interest to your community.

R Belletts, Bongaree"

We'd love to know more. Can anyone shed any more light on this story? Please get in touch if you can help.

Grave Exhibition Additions

If you visit the new Anzac Legacy Gallery at the Queensland Museum, keep your eye out for the Dunwich story.

The Anzac Legacy Gallery explores the social, political and economic legacies of World War One, as well as being the new home of one of the world's most significant war relics – the armoured assault vehicle, Mephisto.

The Museum has lent the Anzac Legacy Gallery three unassigned gravemarkers from the Dunwich Cemetery, to illustrate the experience of the returned soldiers in the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum.



To mark Remembrance Day, the Museum published a list of the names of over 65 WW1 soldiers buried in the Dunwich Cemetery.

This is the result of several years of research. Only a handful of these men are in marked graves. There is more information about these men, and links to two blog posts about their lives here:

<https://www.stradbroke-museum.com.au/WW1soldiers>

Museum Gana — *Hear, Think, Understand*

The Museum recently launched a new initiative—***Museum Gana—Hear, Think, Understand***, a series of guest speakers, sharing interesting and challenging stories.

The Inaugural ***Museum Gana*** speaker was Dean Parkin—a Quandamooka man who shared his personal involvement in the consultations that lead to the ***Uluru Statement from the Heart***. In the ***Uluru Statement***, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people told Australia what they want from constitutional reform. Dean talked about the

process of drafting the Statement, and identified the challenges that lay ahead for constitutional recognition and reconciliation

If you missed Dean's talk, you can watch his fascinating TedX speech here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xB-31jD4XcA>

More information about the ***Uluru Statement***:
<https://www.1voiceuluru.org/>

Keep an eye out for our next ***Museum Gana*** early in the new year.

Friends of the Museum

Become a Friend of the North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah.

Donate \$500 or more, and receive life membership, invitations to all Museum events and functions, and acknowledgement in the Museum.

All donations to the Museum are TAX DEDUCTIBLE

You could also consider a bequest to the NSIHM. Please contact the Museum for any information.



A Moving Church Service

St Peter's Church in Amity Point is to be relocated to the mainland.

The Anglican Church of Australia recently sold the building, which was condemned some years ago due to termite damage, asbestos and its poor condition.

The Church was constructed from an old house which had been owned by Grace Nevin and then Jack Toll, with additional new timber. It was built by George Birch—the local baker—and opened in October 1957.

The street where the building was originally located



St Peter's Church in Amity Point on blocks and ready to move last month. Photo from the NSIMM Collection.

is now in the sea, and the church was moved to its current location in the 1990s.

Canon Miles oversaw the project and performed services in the church for many years.

The building seated about 40 people in pews, and until the early 1990s the lighting came from kerosene lamps.

The purchasers of the building intend to move it to a new site on the mainland, and to restore it. Some of the fixtures and fittings remain in the Parish.

Dunwich 'Bohemia'



A snapshot of 'Bohemia' showing artworks depicting Quandamoka people by Garnet Agnew.

An exhibition exploring the artistic and literary works of three generations of the Agnew family is currently on display at the Museum. The exhibition — a collaboration with the Redland Museum — features artworks and writings, as well as a series of photographs taken in Dunwich by Philip Agnew. The Agnew family lived and worked in Dunwich for many years and were active in the cultural life of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum. The exhibition continues over the summer.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Museum AGM farewelled long-time and treasured committee members Judy Hines and Constance Millar. Amity Point resident Karen Rylance was welcomed onto the Committee.

Museum President Geoff Moore gave his usual entertaining gallop through the many highlights of the Museum year - which you can read at www.stradbrokemuseum.com.au/news

Thanks to Cr Peter Mitchell for officiating at the meeting, and to the Straddie Island Singers for their terrific performance.



The last Museum Committee meeting for Judy and Constance. From L-R: Julie Hislop, Tracy Ryan, Judy Hines, Joan Benham, Geoff Moore, Elisabeth Gondwe (staff), Auntyn Evelyn Parkin, Iain McLean, Howard Guille, and Constance Millar.

Aunty Donna Ruska passed away in October. She made a significant contribution to the Museum and the historical recordings of Minjerribah. In 2002 she was employed as an interviewer for the Redland City Council North Stradbroke Island Oral History Project which was run by the Quandamooka Lands Council.

Aunty Donna recorded over 50 oral history interviews, typed transcripts, and took hundreds of photographs which remain a valuable record of the community and Island.

While undertaking a Significance Assessment of the Museum's collections, Aunty Donna's photographic collection was described by Dr Thom Blake as of National Significance and a unique documentation of a community and everyday life.



Aunty Donna Ruska at the first Kunjil in 2015.
Photo courtesy Jo Duncan.

It is also with sadness that we mourn the passing of **Aunty Thelma Willis**. Aunty Thelma also contributed to the oral history project and was a valued regular attendee of Museum functions.

Support your Museum this Christmas

The Museum is grateful to Stradbroke Holidays for donating the major prize for this year's Christmas Raffle.



1st Prize: Return Barge Pass, kindly donated by Stradbroke Holidays

2nd Prize: \$30 Voucher from the Museum Shop

3rd Prize: Crocheted slippers handmade by Constance Millar

Tickets: \$2 each, 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10, available at the Pt Lookout Markets or from the Museum. Drawn at the Point Lookout Market on Sunday December 23.

(If you live far away, you can direct deposit the money to buy raffle tickets and we will put your tickets into the draw—just send us an email for details.)

The Museum Shop has plenty of great present ideas: home-made jam, tea-towels, handtowels, and an excellent range of local books.

Find us at every Point Lookout Market in December....

VOLUNTEER AT THE MUSEUM!

Volunteering at the Museum is a great way to meet new people, share your skills or learn new ones, and find out a whole lot of interesting stuff about the history and people of North Stradbroke Island.

We have roles for front of house staff, tour guides, researchers, cataloguers, gardeners, jam makers, dusters etc etc.

Being a Museum volunteer doesn't tie you down to a regular commitment. You don't have to dedicate any particular amount of time, and we will provide training for your area of interest. We try to match you with a task you will find fun and interesting. For more information, call Lisa or Elisabeth at the Museum on 3409 9699, or drop us an email. We'd love to see you.



Redland City Council is proud to provide funding for the North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah as part of the Community Grants Program to assist the Redlands Community.

