



Special Points of Interest:

- Townsville as seen through the eyes of writers of tourist publications— 1988
- Theatre Stanley memorabilia

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.

A Message from Trish

Happy New Year for 2014 to all the members and volunteers and I trust you all enjoyed the Festive Season with family and friends. We also welcome back some old members who have rejoined and welcome new members to the Museum. I would also extend "Get Well Wishes" to Dell Low and Graeme Mounsey's wife, Mal. This year is going to be a very busy one especially with the planned new exhibitions to start off the celebrations of Townsville's 150 years. A photo exhibit will be done in partnership with MTQ around April and then two further exhibitions later in the year. One will feature some of our Pioneers who contributed to the establishment of Townsville and the other exhibition will be during Italian Week at the end of May. Lots of work ahead for the Museum. Just before Christmas a book launch of Don McDonald's *Random Collections 1913-2005*, was held at Thuringowa Library and attended by over 60 people, some of whom knew Don McDonald well. The book is about life in Townsville from his early childhood, working during the Great Depression, growing tobacco at Hervey Range and his service during WWII. The book is available from the Museum for \$29.00 and would make a great gift or addition to a library collection. Congratulations to Geoff Hansen for his work on this book.

The Museum is going to start a new section of its membership base called "Friends of the Museum". The idea of the "Friends" is more of a social side and the members will meet once a month for morning tea and a chat. "Friends" are not required to volunteer, unless they wish to, but will be invited to special events, book launches and to assist the Museum in promoting us to friends and family. The membership cost will be \$11.00. So if you have a friend, family member or are involved in a social organization, tell them about our new "Friends" membership. Also any ideas for this social club would be most welcome.

2014 is going to be exciting – new displays, another book launch (possibly two) and I look forward to working with you all this year.

Regards,

Trish Cronin President

TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BUSINESS HOURS	MEMBERSHIP FEES	
Monday to Friday	(12 months from 1st July to 30th June)	
9:00 am to 2:30 pm	Single	\$ 11.00
First and Third Sundays of the month	Couples	\$ 16.50
1:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Corporate	\$ 32.50
FREE ENTRY		



Above: Unknown (1988). Participants in the Festival of Pacific Arts, Townsville. Below: Unknown (1988). Tall ships, Townsville Harbour. 1988.

(Local History Collection, CityLibraries)



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Denham Street

From John Mathew's "Highways and Byways"...

Denham Street, City. Captain Henry Mangl(e)s Denham R.N. arrived in Sydney on 19th February, 1853 on H.M.S. "Herald" and spent nine years in Australian waters mapping the coastline.

Henry Mangles Denham was born on 28th August 1800 to the late Henry Denham, Esq., of Sherbourne. He began his sea life early as a volunteer on the *Daphne*, 20 guns and from 1810 to 1827, was employed under Captain Martin White assisting in surveying the Channel Islands and the English and Irish Channels. In 1826, Henry married Isabella, daughter of the Reverend Joseph Cole of Camarthen.

In 1827, Henry Denham was appointed to the command of the "*Linnet*" in which he surveyed the Bristol Channel and the ports of Liverpool and Milford. In 1834 he was presented with the Freedom of the borough of Liverpool for his services to that city and elected a member of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool. Henry received a promotion to the rank of Commander (second in command) to Frederick William Beechey on the "*Lucifer*" which was used to survey the coasts of Cumberland and Lancashire in 1835.

Denham continued to be recognised for his contribution to the maritime sciences and in 1839 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Soon after in 1841, he became a Brother of the Corporation of Trinity House, and a corresponding member of the United States National Institute for the Promotion of Science. In 1845, Denham was appointed to command the "*Avon*" and was sent to West Africa where he performed his duties well in difficult conditions. His next major appointment came in 1852, when he was appointed to the command of an expedition to the South Pacific. In the fleet were two vessels, the "*Herald*" and its tender, the "*Torch*". He remained in this post until the end of 1860.

Captain Henry Mangles Denham surveyed both east and west coasts of Australia, but his special exploration of the Coral Sea by thoroughly examining the shipping route outside the Great Barrier Reefs, by Torres Strait, to the Dutch Colonies in the Java Sea, Singapore and India as well as the islands of New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Fiji, Tonga and the Solomon and Louisiade Archipelagos made sailing journeys much safer. Some of the work was completed by others, however, as after nine years abroad, Denham's time to return home came towards the end of 1860. In early 1861, Denham returned home to England via the Torres Strait and the Cape of Good Hope, arriving home in May. This was the last voyage for Captain Denham.

He was promoted to Rear Admiral in March 1864 and soon after in 1865, his wife Isabella passed away. In 1866, he was knighted for his long and important services in the "*Herald*" and named Commander-in-Chief, Pacific from May to November 1866. But recognition of his contributions continued on and in 1870 he was again promoted, this time to Vice Admiral and in 1877, he rose to the rank of Admiral.

Henry Mangles Denham R.N. died on 3rd July 1887 at his residence in Carlton Gardens.

Denham township near Shark Bay in W.A. is named in his honour after he spent three months in 1858 charting the waters of the bay. Denham Channel leading to Shark Bay and Denham Sound which provides safe anchorage for larger vessels also carry his name. He in turn named many geographic places while in Western Australian Waters, naming the islands of Pelican, Smith, Egg and Salutation as well as some other places reflecting difficult times such as Hopeless Reach, Disappointment Loop and Disappointment Reach.



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TOWNSVILLE : AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE WRITERS OF TOURIST PUBLICATIONS OVER THE YEARS—1988

Souvenir of Townsville. (1988). Townsville: Nadicprint Services

A copy of this publication is held in the library of Townsville Museum & Historical Society.

Spreading along the banks of Ross Creek, set in a pocket on the southern sweep of Cleveland Bay, Townsville commands views of the seductive outline of Magnetic Island, so named because of the fluctuations noted by the compass needles of Cook's Endeavour. To the west the city is bounded by the wooded slopes of Mount Stuart while the immediate view from most parts of the inner city is dominated by the crouching bulk of Castle Hill. Townsville is fortunate in retaining so many concrete links with the past— the white painted buildings that brought favourable comments from early visitors are still in evidence. The streetscape of Flinders Street East captures the essence of 100 years ago and modern landscaping has served to highlight that atmosphere. But Townsville is a "people" city, a characteristic that has influenced the development of the architecturally acclaimed Flinders Mall, and the development of the boardwalk eating areas along the banks of Ross Creek adjacent to the imaginatively recycled Victoria Bridge.

The geographic quirk of nature that saw the city being located in a rain shadow ensures a climate where sunshine is experienced for most of the winter months, but the lack of rain has worked against the growth of tropical greenery and vegetation. The recently completed Burdekin Dam, and the pipeline that has been constructed to bring water to the city, will redress this problem. After years of water restrictions and below average summer wet seasons, Townsville can now look forward to a real greening of the city and suburbs.

The glass and concrete buildings continuing to change the skyline serve as reminders of the administrative influence of the city. Both federal and state government departments exercise regional responsibilities.

In the fields of transport the completion of a new airport building has replaced the collection of wartime sheds that served as a domestic terminal. In 1982 an International terminal was completed so that overseas visitors may begin their holiday in Townsville.

The cultural blossoming of the city has quickened pace as the influences of a local university, James Cook University of North Queensland and a large army presence has introduced the stimulus for growth. Now there are libraries, museums, and art galleries and a civic theatre of metropolitan standard to make it a civilised city.....



Councillor Dan Gleeson held the position of Chairman of Thuringowa Shire from 1976–1985. After Thuringowa was declared a city in its own right in 1986, Dan Gleeson became the first mayor of the city of Thuringowa and remained so until 1988.

Left: Unknown (1988). *Mayor of Thuringowa, Mr Dan Gleeson, with Mr Peter Arnold* (Original held in Local History Collection, CityLibraries.)

Townsville : As seen through the eyes of writers of tourist publications...

1988



Above: Unknown (1988). Great Barrier Reef Wonderland in Flinders Street. (From *Souvenir of Townsville: Nadicprint Services 1988*)

Right: Unknown (1988). Floating Hotel on John Brewer Reef. (From *Souvenir of Townsville: Nadicprint Services 1988*)

**The yellow sub
"Manta", a semi
submersible coral
viewing vessel, set
new standards.....**



Above: Unknown (1988). Sheraton Breakwater Casino-Hotel (From *Souvenir of Townsville: Nadicprint Services 1988*)

Great Barrier Reef Wonderland

Opened in 1987, a Bicentennial project ahead of the official year, the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland represents a fine example of the way in which a national and state government of opposing political persuasions co-operated with commercial and community groups and raised funds to enable a unique recreation of the wonders of the Barrier Reef to be sampled on shore.... The complex includes an Omnimax Theatre, first of its kind in the southern hemisphere. This provides a new dimension in cinematic experience by use of an 180-degree screen which surrounds the 200 patrons reclining in their sharply raked seats. There is a branch of the Queensland Museum, a small shopping complex and a ferry terminal servicing Magnetic Island.

Reef Attractions



The Great Barrier Reef has probably been one of the best publicised and least accessible attractions in the modern world. It was in the mid 1980s that tourism operators began to deliver a reef experience to match the expectations of visitors. The yellow sub "Manta", a semi submersible coral viewing vessel, set new standards for the glass bottomed boats that had presented a glimpse of the depths. Serviced by speedy catamarans and 72 km from Townsville on John Brewer Reef the venture was an immediate success and led to the headline grabbing concept of a floating hotel. Built in Singapore, and transported as deck cargo, the 200 room international class hotel commenced operations in March 1988. As well as providing easy access to the semi submersible submarine and scuba diving, reef and game fishing and yacht and catamaran cruises, the resort has a unique floating tennis court.....

Sheraton Breakwater Casino

Standing proudly against the backdrop of Cleveland Bay and the distant outline of Magnetic Island, the Sheraton Breakwater Casino-Hotel represents the results of much strenuous lobbying by local business interests and meticulous and imaginative planning by the promoters. Competition was fierce with submissions emanating from a large slice of North and Far North Queensland. Once the go ahead was given local interest became intense when the man made breakwater began to appear as truck after truck deposited its load of rock and fill. The design provided for a Marina, and the tropically landscaped 700 berth Marina complements the gleaming white façade of the Casino. Participation in ownership of shares in the venture was eagerly sought, so much so, that the facilities of the Brisbane Lottery Office were needed to allot shares by ballot to applicants who had subscribed almost three times the amount of capital sought.....

References

Souvenir of Townsville (1988). Nadicprint Services; Townsville

Unknown (1988). *Mayor of Thuringowa, Mr Dan Gleeson, with Mr Peter Arnold* [Photo held by CityLibraries]

Chronological List of Chairman & Mayors. Accessed 30.12.2013 from <http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities/libraries/collections/Documents/Info%20Sheet%2011%20Chairmen%20and%20mayors.pdf>

ACQUISITIONS—DONATION OF THEATRE MEMORABILIA

Recently, we came across a donated Regal Chocolate box of theatre artifacts. It was donated in 2007 and contained two Theatre Stanley programmes, two flyers, four newspaper clippings, a dance programme for the Townsville Hospital Annual Ball, a small booklet about the Sacred Heart Shield, and a letter of thanks from Edna Hannaford of Central School to Miss Noreen Donovan (dated 23rd November, 1922).

Entertainment in times past often centred around the theatres and stages of towns. Townsville seems to have had a vibrant theatre community and the patronage of our local townfolk encouraged touring companies to stay a little longer or to venture away from the larger cities to the rural and remote areas such as northern Queensland.

On Tuesday, 22nd November 1921, a small article appeared in the Townsville Daily Bulletin announcing that the Theatre Stanley, which had been practically rebuilt, would be opening again with an evening of entertainment by the Newton Carroll Dramatic Company.

“This company comes to Townsville with a splendid record, having played throughout the southern States for the last six years, their long seasons including five weeks, Theatre Royal, Sydney; 31 nights at Rockhampton, 11 weeks at Ipswich. A southern contemporary says:- The popularity of the Newton Carroll Dramatic Company was revealed last evening, when the company played to a crowded house. “A Girl’s Cross Roads” was staged, and the various artists established themselves warm favourites with the immense audience whose appreciation of the performance was most pronounced. Mr Newton Carroll heads a first class company, and last evening each and every artist won well merited applause.”



Hugh Huxham

Hugh Huxham’s Serenaders first appeared at the Theatre Stanley, and as an article in the Townsville Daily Bulletin on Friday 18th May 1923 attests, their performance was eagerly awaited.

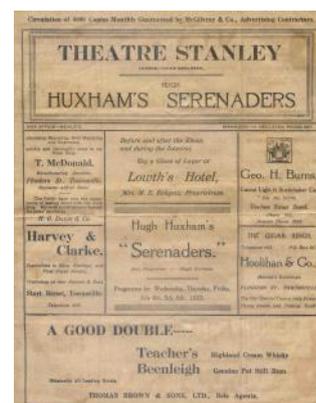
“An event in the history of high-class costume comedy in Townsville is promised at the re-opening of the above theatre on Saturday 26th May, when Hugh Huxham’s Serenaders make their debut.. Among the many costume



Edith Huxham

comedy companies in Australia, there are none that have the reputation or hold the record for versatility that the Serenaders possess. It is some years now since Mr Hugh Huxham, together with his charming wife (Miss Edith Martland), and his brother appeared as the harmonious Huxhams. Their opening was an immediate success, and long seasons followed with the late Harry Rickards both in Australia and New Zealand. It was whilst on tour that Mr Huxham conceived the idea of forming the present combination. Their opening at St Kilda was an immediate

success and from this modest opening they never looked back. The company at present consists of no less than fifteen star artists, and is the most expensive costume comedy company in the Commonwealth. The Theatre Stanley is being specially prepared for the Serenaders’ visit. The box plan is at Beale’s and intending patrons will be well advised to book early.”



ACQUISITIONS—DONATION OF THEATRE MEMORABILIA

The Serenaders appear to have had a successful stay in the north of Queensland. They presented several shows in 1923 and 1924. The last show I found in the Townsville Daily Bulletin was one mentioned in a small article published on Wednesday 20th August 1924.

“ For a short period commencing Saturday next, the popular Townsville favourites, The Serenaders, open at the Theatre Stanley for a short return season, when they play “Babes in the Wood”. The same old popular prices prevail and seats may be reserved at Perry’s.”



Far Left: Theatre Stanley programmes Left: Dance card from Townsville Hospital Annual Ball Below left: Theatre Stanley Programme for Mandarin Opera Revue

The Mandarin Opera Revue opened at the Theatre Stanley on Saturday 4th August 1924. This revue appeared in the Townsville Daily Bulletin on Monday 6th August 1924.

Circulation of 700 Copies Monthly Guaranteed by McIlwray & Co., Advertising Contractors.

THEATRE STANLEY
LEIGH—HARRIS BUILDING

MANDARIN OPERA REVUE

MANAGER—WILLIAM WINGARD

Presented by
T. McDonald,
Advertisement Manager
P.O. Box 100, Townsville

Before and after the show
and during the interval
Get a Glass of Lager at
Loth's Hotel,
Mrs. H. E. Holgate, Proprietress

Geo. H. Burns,
Lance Light & Stroboscope Co.
Opp. G.P.O.
Queens Street, Townsville

Harvey & Clarke,
Advertisement Manager
100, Queen Street, Townsville

The Mandarin
Operational
OPERA REVUE.

J. W. CURTIS Presents

THE CIGAR KINGS
Townsville, Qld. For Sale at
Hoolihan & Co.,
Market St. Brisbane

A GOOD DOUBLE—
Teacher's Highland Cream Whisky
Beenleigh Genuine Pot Still Whisky

THOMAS BROWN & SONS, LTD., Sole Agents.

Daily Bulletin on Monday 6th August 1924.

“The usual big Saturday crowd attended the Stanley on Saturday night, when Mr J. Curtis presented a highly entertaining Chinese revue, “The Mandarin”. It was an original and amusing thing, well dressed and cleverly staged, and crammed full with good vocal items and dancing, and the crowd enjoyed it thoroughly. The story surrounds Lieutenant John Smith, who is kidnapped in China but finally is released when he marries a little Chinese Lady. Mr J. Curtis was the Mandarin, and he acted in his usual capital style, his pleasing voice being heard to advantage. Mr C. Pengelly, a well-known amateur, did excellently as Lieutenant Smith. A surprise was the rare ability shown by Miss Agnes Brown, who quite captivated the audience. Mr J. Campbell also did well. Misses P. McPherson, S. Doble, M. Jofies were popular with their portrayals of Chinese girls and amongst other good characters were D. Rider, W. Hanaford, L. Raymond, and C. Forno. There was plenty of good singing, dancing and comedy throughout the revue and one would have been surprised if it was not popular. “The Mandarin” will be presented tonight and tomorrow night.

THEATRE STANLEY
GREAT SUCCESS ON SATURDAY NIGHT OF
“MANDARIN” OPERA REVUE
GREATEST LOCAL SHOW YET

SATURDAY'S BIG AUDIENCE MUST REPRESENT
DON'T MISS ATTENDING TO-NIGHT OR TO-MORROW

POPULAR PRICES FOR PLACES AT PERRY'S.

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McDONALD FAMILY and TM&HS BOOK LAUNCH OF “RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS”

The book launch of Don McDonald’s book, “Random Recollections 1913-2005” was held at the Thuringowa branch of CityLibraries on Friday, 13th December 2013. It was the culmination of many months of editing and consultation over the book’s details. Our thanks must go to the museum and family members who put in many hours of work to see this project through.

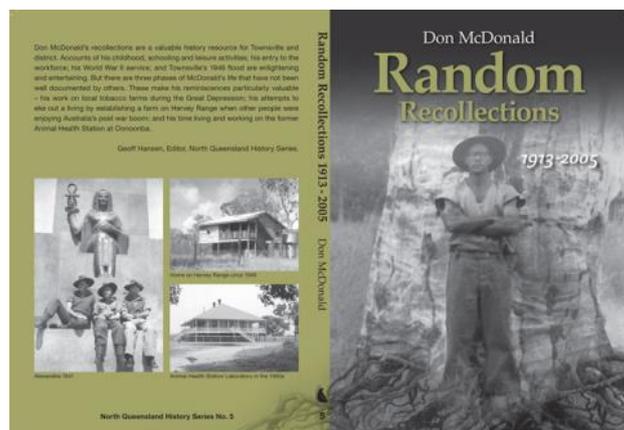
John McDonald as a family representative and Geoff Hansen as History Series editor, were interviewed on Local ABC radio by Paula Tapiolas in the days leading up to the book launch. This may have helped boost numbers at the book launch, but interest in Don’s book came from people from all parts of Don’s life and it was so good to see such a wonderful appreciative audience on that Friday.

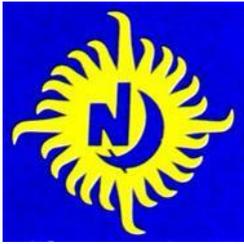
Geoff Hansen introduced the book, John spoke about it on behalf of the family and Dr Judith Jensen launched “Random Recollections” with a speech that spoke warmly of Don’s portrayal of life in the Townsville Community.

Many guests at the launch took the opportunity to purchase a book and some were keen to have it signed by a family member or the series editor. Books are available to purchase from the Townsville Museum at a cost of \$29.00.



Clockwise from above left: Geoff Hansen; John McDonald; Dr Judith Jensen; Book cover; Guests at the launch.





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LATE NEWS: TM&HS will be launching a "FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM" Club in the near future. This group will be mainly a social group, meeting regularly at the museum to share information and help to raise the profile of our wonderful facility. Keep your eye out for the launch.

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