



Special Points of Interest:

- *Townsville around 1995*
- *Stories of Townsville's penny ferry*
- *Townsville Railway Station*

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

How time flies when you are *stressed* to the max, wonder how you are going to fit in all that extra work and now it's June already. Heritage Day was held on the 18th May and as usual was very successful. Italian Week was also celebrated on 26th May with a wonderful day at the Museum on Sunday 1st June with many thanks going to the ladies from Dante Alighieri for their great ideas and assistance. The display will continue on to the 30th June. More things happening, the Museum is holding a book launch at the Museum of Tropical Queensland on Thursday, 5th June. This book, "The First 50 Years", by Helga Griffin is definitely one for the library. The Mayor, Councillor Jenny Hill, will officially launch the book and Helga Griffin will be the guest speaker. Later in the year, there will be another book written by Geoff Hansen and will be launched in conjunction with the photographic display by Townsville Museum and held at the Museum of Tropical Queensland. The photographic display will feature some wonderful photos of early Townsville from 1866 to 1914. This is a joint effort with Townsville Museum and MTQ to start of the 150th celebrations of Townsville.

Membership for the financial year 2014/2015 is now due and we appreciate your support with renewal for memberships and welcome new members. It is also great news to hear Dell Low and Mel Mounsey are well on track to a full recovery and also Greg Wright who is feeling much better. On behalf of all our members, our very best wishes go to them.

Our secretary Wendy is away on a well deserved holiday with husband, Bill and we trust they are enjoying England and look forward to her return.

Regards,

Trish Cronin

President

Membership fees for the financial year 2014-2015 are due after the 30th June 2014. Reminders will be posted or emailed in the near future.

In Townsville, 1995



Undy, G. (1995). *Mabo graveside & Annita Keating*. Townsville, 1995. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an12549227-106>
Held by National Library of Australia. Permission granted to print.

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

FREE ENTRY

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

Single	\$ 11.00
Couples	\$ 16.50
Corporate	\$ 32.50

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WILLS STREET

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

Wills Street, City. William John Wills was surveyor and astronomer on the Burke and Wills expedition, 1860 –1861.

William John Wills was born on 5th January 1834 at Totnes, Devon and was the second of seven children born to Dr William Wills and Sarah Mary Elizabeth (Calley/Kelly). As a child, William John, known as Jack, suffered from a fever which left him with slow speech. He was tutored by his father, who had studied medicine and was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1850, William was articled to his father and undertook courses at two large London hospitals.

William's father, Dr Wills, followed with interest the development of Australia and was set to take both William and younger son, Thomas, out to Australia in 1852 to follow at close hand, the mining company in which he had bought shares. But this was not to be as Mrs Wills objected. However, both sons left England and arrived in Australia at Williamstown, Port Phillip, on the 3rd January 1853. Their father joined them later that year in the Deniliquin area where they were shepherds. Moving on to Ballarat, Dr Wills began a practice again, and William studied surveying and became an assistant with the astronomical and magnetical observatories in Melbourne under Professor Neumayer.

William Wills' correspondence reveals a scientific mind, and he had an interest in natural phenomena, literature and exploration. Professor Neumayer as a member of the exploration committee of the Royal Society of Victoria, helped to organise the expedition to cross Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Subsequently, Wills was appointed surveyor, astronomer and third in command.

The expedition left Melbourne on 20th August 1860, but before long, Landells, second in command, was dismissed at Menindee and Wills became Burke's lieutenant. On 11th November the party arrived at Cooper's Creek, where Brahe was left in charge of the depot while Burke, Wills, King and Gray with six camels, one horse and three months of provisions, left for the Gulf of Carpentaria on 16th December. They reached the Gulf on 11th February 1861. Wills' diary reveals his resilience despite the tough conditions of a difficult climate, hostile aborigines, and shortages of food. Gray's death on 17th April and their return to Cooper's Creek just four days later, were all recorded in the diary by Wills.

Against Wills' judgement, the group left the camp to follow Cooper's Creek towards Adelaide. Wills was left at the camp site while Burke and King left to seek help from the aborigines. Burke died on 28th June and King went back to the camp to find Wills had died as well. Wills had written a farewell letter on the 27th June (a copy of the text is over the page) and the last entry he wrote in the diary was on the 29th June.

"weaker than ever...my legs and arms are nearly skin and bone"

King was found with friendly aborigines by a search group on 15th September. Burke and Wills' remains were eventually returned to Melbourne and there was a public funeral for them on 21st January 1863.

At an enquiry into the expedition at a later date, there was little or no criticism of Wills.

References

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

McLaren, I.F. (1976). Wills, William John (1834-1861) . In *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Retrieved from <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wills-william-john-4864>.. First published in hardcopy 1976, accessed online 19 February 2014.

WILLS STREET

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

Wills Street, City. William John Wills was surveyor and astronomer on the Burke and Wills expedition, 1860 –1861.

Cooper's Creek,
27 June 1861

My Dear Father,

These are probably the last lines you will ever get from me. We are on the point of starvation not so much from absolute want of food, but from the want of nutriment in what we can get.

Our position, although more provoking, is probably not near so disagreeable as that of poor Harry and his companions [Footnote: Harry, his cousin, Lieutenant Le Vescompte, who perished with Sir John Franklin].

We have had very good luck, and made a most successful trip to Carpentaria, and back to where we had every right to consider ourselves safe, having left a Depôt here consisting of four men, twelve horses, and six camels.

They had provisions enough to have lasted them twelve months with proper economy, and we had also every right to expect that we should have been immediately followed up from Menindie by another party with additional provisions and every necessary for forming a permanent Depôt at Cooper's Creek. The party we left here had special instructions not to leave until our return - *unless from absolute necessity*. We left the creek with nominally three months' supply, but they were reckoned at little over the rate of half rations. We calculated on having to eat some of the camels. By the greatest good luck, at every turn, we crossed to the gulf through a good deal of fine country, almost in a straight line from here.

On the other side the camels suffered considerably from wet; we had to kill and jerk one soon after starting back. We had now been out a little more than two months and found it necessary to reduce the rations considerably; and this began to tell on all hands, but I felt it by far less than any of the others. The great scarcity and shyness of game and our forced marches, prevented our supplying the deficiency from external sources to any great extent; but we never could have held out but for the crows and hawks, and the portulac. The latter is an excellent vegetable, and I believe secured our return to this place. We got back here in four months and four days, and found the party had left the Creek the same day, and we were not in a fit state to follow them.

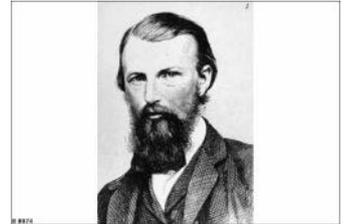
I find I must close this, that it may be planted but I will write some more, although it has not so good a chance of reaching you as this. You have great claims on the committee for their neglect. I leave you in sole charge of what is coming to me. The whole of my money I desire to leave to my sisters; other matters I pass over for the present.

Adieu, my dear Father. Love to Tom.
W. J. Wills

PS. I think to live about four or five days.

(My religious views are not the least changed and I have [not] the least fear of their being so. [Line omitted from published versions]).

My spirits are excellent.



(1860). *William John Wills*.
Portrait of William John Wills B8074. Held by the
State Library of South Australia

References

A successful Exploration of Australia from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria. (1863).www.burkeandwills.net.au/Despatches/Wills/Wills_Letter_12.htm. Accessed 19/02/2014

TOWNSVILLE : AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE WRITERS OF TOURIST PUBLICATIONS OVER THE YEARS—CA 1995 “TOWNSVILLE NORTH QUEENSLAND ”

The Reference Library contains the tourist book entitled, “Townsville North Queensland : Featuring the bountiful Burdekin and goldrush towns of Charters Towers and Ravenswood”. It was published by QBD and printed locally by Nadicprint Services.

Townsville

Townsville is a charming tropical city basking in over 300 days of glorious sunshine a year. Set on the banks of Cleveland Bay, it possesses mile after mile of golden beaches often fringed by majestic palms or ancient fig trees.

The city is an intriguing blend of modern architecture and historic buildings. Ideal for sightseeing with magnificent panoramic views from Castle Hill, it also possesses excellent shopping facilities in the famous Flinders Mall, superb dining facilities in a diverse range of cosmopolitan restaurants, exciting night-life and the chance for a flutter at the Breakwater Casino.

Accommodation is plentiful and ranges from 5 star to backpacker or hostel facilities.

An enchanting place to visit, Townsville is also an ideal starting point for trips to the Barrier Reef, island resorts and the lush tropical hinterland.

More than just a tourist destination however, Townsville, the largest city in Northern Australia and the administrative capital of North Queensland, is blessed with a vibrant and diversified economy. Beef, sugar, copper, lead, zinc and many other commodities are exported through its busy port and excellent infrastructure facilities have attracted a wide range of commercial enterprises.

A stable economy, glorious climate and great natural beauty allow Townsville residents and visitors to enjoy a truly unique tropical lifestyle.

Townsville—The Arts Capital of Australia's North

Townsville has more active Arts Organisations per capita than most cities in Australia. It is home to an internationally acclaimed, professional, contemporary dance company, Dance North, and a professional theatre company, Tropic Line. The City boasts a major award winning regional art gallery, the Perc Tucker Gallery. Contemporary art is found at the Umbrella Gallery.

Music too forms a major part of the City's cultural life with a very vital Community Music Centre and of course, each year, in July, the Australian Festival of Chamber Music brings fine musicians from all over the world for ten days of extraordinary music making in the tropics.



The Rock Pool and Strand from Kissing Point

References

Townsville North Queensland. (n.d.) . Townsville: QBD

TOWNSVILLE : AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF WRITERS OF TOURIST PUBLICATIONS...CA 1995



Townsville Entertainment Centre

The Civic Theatre, the City's principal performing arts venue, presents a broad range of professional and community events by both local and touring artists. Townsville is also the administrative centre for the Woomera Aboriginal Corporation, better known overseas and in Australia's outback, as the Mornington Island Dancers. Visitors can spend hours visiting the many Museums and heritage sites of the area, especially the Museum of Tropical Queensland at the Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Centre. For most of the year, the parks and malls of the City abound with Community Arts action of every kind.

More than just a tourist destination however, Townsville, the largest city in Northern Australia and the administrative capital of North Queensland, is blessed with a vibrant and diversified economy....

The Billabong Animal Sanctuary

Situated just 17 km south of Townsville on the Bruce Highway is the award winning Billabong Sanctuary, North Queensland's most spectacular wildlife park. Set in 10 hectares of native eucalypt, lush rainforest and tropical wetlands, the park features natural and bush walks, a host of native animals in their natural environments and daily animal feeding displays.

Paluma

Nestling high in the national park of Mount Spec, 89 kilometres north of Townsville is the delightful village of Paluma. With its cool damp climate Paluma is popular spot for lovers of rainforests and walkers. Located in the centre of the village is the Ivy Cottage well known for its tasty home baked Devonshire teas and apple pies. Its lovely gardens are a peaceful setting for many rainforest birds and plants.

Charters Towers

Charters Towers, known during the goldrush days as "The World" dates back to 1871 and is situated about ninety minutes drive west of Townsville. Beautifully restored historic buildings abound in the city, built on gold, which was once the second largest city in Queensland and the undisputed capital of the north.

Delightful camping, fishing and picnic spots around the area. Just ask the locals.

The Bountiful Burdekin

The Burdekin, centred on the towns of Ayr and Home Hill to the south of Townsville, is one of the richest agricultural areas in Queensland with new farms on sale by auction regularly throughout the year. A vast underground aquifer, rich alluvial soil and a winterless climate combine to establish the Burdekin as the major sugar producing capital of Australia. In addition, the area is a major producer of fruit, vegetables and beef.



Contemporary Dance in the innovative Dance North style.



The Townsville City Council's Civic Theatre.

LOOKING BACK—PERSONAL REMINISCENCES BY LOCALS ABOUT THE PENNY FERRY

This reflection is taken from "New Dimension" 2nd edition May 1983, a publication by the Senior Citizens Centre, Ryan Street, Belgian Gardens.

The Penny Ferry by I. Miller

Only a few weeks ago there was an article in the Townsville Daily Bulletin referring to the Penny Ferry in Townsville.

Yes! I well remember this mode of transport which linked Ross Island with the main street of Townsville, Flinders Street.

Whenever there was a Carnival on the "Strand", we now know as Anzac Park, the Penny Ferry was a very convenient way for the people living on Ross Island to get to the Carnival more quickly and cheaper than using horse drawn buses.

The Ferry itself was a punt or dinghy with seats from side to side and rowed by a boatman with oars— no out-board motors in those days.

The owner of this transport was very obliging and if you were in a hurry to get to the other side, he would row you across even if he only had one or two passengers.

The City Baths was the only bathing enclosure at that time and this was a very popular spot during the summer months and also brought customers to the Ferry. The baths later were rebuilt and renamed Tobruk Baths.

Ross Islanders working in the main part of town used the Ferry constantly as it took them practically to their jobs.

When Townsville resident, Mr Alf Clegg, relocated to Brisbane in 1948, the following excerpt was published in the Townsville Daily Bulletin on Wednesday, 3rd November, recalling Alf's early life in Townsville. Alf remembers clearly the penny ferry.

Reference

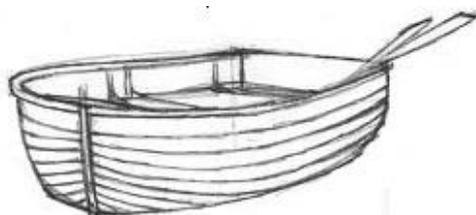
KNEW SOUTHSIDE 70 YEARS AGO. (1948, November 3). Townsville Daily Bulletin (Qld:1885-1954), p.2. Retrieved March 25, 2014, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article-63358748>

"There were about 20 houses at South Townsville then (c. 1878), Mr Clegg said on Tuesday, "and one hotel, the Bridge. It was located where the Metropole is now and was at the southern end of a wooden bridge which extended across Ross Creek."

"The bridge was later destroyed and a penny ferry was established by my brother Jack. He paid £37 a month for the ferry. I took £3 one day in penny fares pulling across the creek."

Mr Clegg said there were two ferries, the other being at the site of the present Victoria Bridge. It went out with the construction of the bridge.

Water for island residents in the early days was carted from a well near the Ross Island school and sold at 1/6 a hogshead.....



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

This delightful small hook was donated recently. It once belonged to the donor's grandmother. Nick explained to us that as it is small, it was probably kept in a purse or handbag and was used to button and unbutton gloves.



Another very lovely donation came from Gloria and David Soper who donated the beautiful dining table and chairs currently in Hall 2. This piece is a Miller's Lamp, chandelier style, made in the USA and available in North Queensland at the turn of the Twentieth Century. The lamp is in good order and will need only a little restoration to bring it back to display standard. Nick has researched this piece and discovered this advertisement in the Northern Miner from 1901.

JUST ARRIVED!—
LAMPWARE ! LAMPWARE !
LAMPWARE ! LAMPWARE !
A WONDERFUL VARIETY,
 including Miller's Library Hanging Lamp, fitted with Rochester Burner and Chimney, also Beautiful Shades and Prisms. Prices from 21/17/6 to £3.
 Hall Lamps, with Beautiful Ruby Globes, fitted with Venus Burners and Pearl Chimneys, from 25/- to 40/-.
 Table Lamps, a Splendid Variety, including the Rochester from 8/6 to 20/-, Duplex, with double Burner, and Colored Glass Fonts, from 8/6 to 20/- ; Kosmos Lamps, ranging from 4/- to 14/- ; Nickel Rochester Lamps, No. 2, 18/6. Tiny Juno Lamps 6/-
 Bedroom Lamps, a Great Variety, prices ranging from 1/3 to 3/3.
 Kitchen Back Lamps, with reflector, from 1/- to 7/-
EAGLE PLAYING CARDS,
 (Enamelled.)
To be cleared at ONE SHILLING
Per Pack.
Call and inspect for yourselves.
RUSSELL WILKINS & SONS.

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'ROUND THE FIRESIDE.



Some of the Most pleasant of home life are spent under the gentle, kindly light of the evening lamp. If it be the MILLER LAMP, the light contributes an added charm—makes reading and sewing easy. There are no aching eyes after reading or sewing under the rays of the MILLER LAMP.

It diffuses a steady, white light that is least trying of all artificial light. Made of Metal throughout and beautifully nickel plated.

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8/6, 10/6 and 16/, each.

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"THE BIG STORE OF VALUES"
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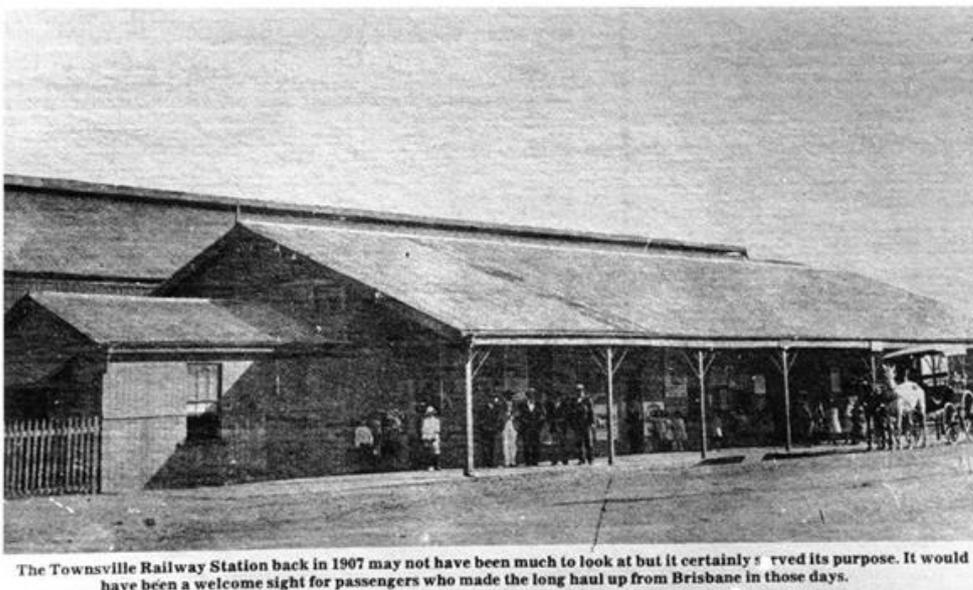
LOOKING BACK AT THE TOWNSVILLE RAILWAY STATION

BACKGROUND

As the Great Northern Railway Line between Townsville and Charters Towers commenced its construction in 1879, a railway station was planned and constructed in Flinders Street West in 1880, near the junction of Jones Street. It was described in the plans as “portable, temporary railway station” and it took the builder, Mr Edward Jones of Rockhampton, some four weeks to complete.

Here is the description taken from *The Northern Miner*, Tuesday 9th November 1880.

“The station is a roomy, commodious structure, of fair proportions, and finished with the usual conveniences. It is divided into three compartments, if we may use the expression, which are separated by two passages, or ticket halls, measuring 27ft x 12 ft each. A covered verandah, 63ft 6 in. x 12ft 6 in. runs the whole length of the building which faces the street. The first division or compartment contains a telegraph office in which the operator has a private room, and entrance to this is to be had from the street. Then there is the lamp room. A parcel room fronts the platform and it is a roomy and shapely looking office. The first passage or ticket hall divides this division of this building from the next, which is divided into the station master’s and booking offices. These are fine airy rooms. Then there are places where tickets are to be obtained. These open to passage No.2. The porters’ room and ladies’ waiting room form the third portion of the building, and both are well fitted up and possess that great recommendation of being built so as to be rendered as cool and airy as possible. Appended to these apartments are the usual outhouses. The walls of the building are 15 ft high, and the room, being of good width are inductive of coolness.....The platform is about fifteen feet from the railway line, and persons will have to descend (sic) by steps from it and then mount the steps of the carriages, and thus those accidents so commonly occurring on platforms will be avoided. The ground underneath the verandah will be asphalted. Altogether the building is a credit to the contractor, and one that will answer the purposes for which it has been designed for some considerable time to come.”



The Townsville Railway Station back in 1907 may not have been much to look at but it certainly served its purpose. It would have been a welcome sight for passengers who made the long haul up from Brisbane in those days.

Unknown. (1907).
Townsville Railway Station. This picture is held in CityLibraries Local History Collection.

And so this building remained in use until a more substantial building was proposed in 1899. A design by Vincent Price, an architectural draftsman in the Railway Department, prepared the drawings and building commenced in 1910. The building took 3 years to construct and was situated at the intersection of Flinders and Blackwood Streets, a few blocks closer to the town area from the first railway station.

LOOKING BACK AT THE TOWNSVILLE RAILWAY STATION - CONTINUED

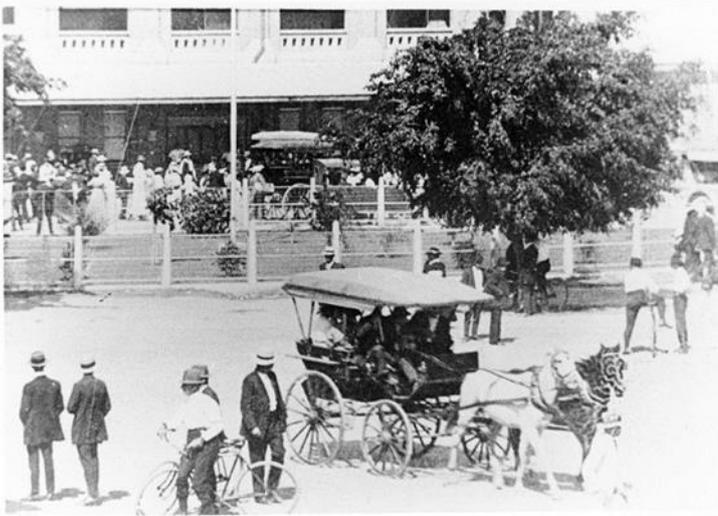
Here is a description written by a Townsville Daily Bulletin journalist who was invited on a tour of the building with the General Traffic Manager, Mr J. G. Brown and the clerk of works, Mr J. Tate on Friday, 24th October 1913.

“The main hall has three entrances. Massive granite pillars have been erected, and these will support wicket gates. On the right of the entrance there are three booking windows, and in front of each will be erected bagstands for the busy traveller. On the opposite side of the hall will be erected an “indicator” board of the latest design, showing details of the departure of trains. The ceiling of the hall is of art Wunderlich metal, which is used practically throughout the building. The dimensions of the entrance hall are 36ft by 26ft.

At the right of the booking office are situated the parcels and cloak rooms, both of which are fitted with a system of racks to facilitate the handling of articles. Access on both the platform side and front is provided. Next door is the lost property office, fitted with a similar system of racks. In regard to luggage, it may be mentioned that special provision is made for heavy luggage, so as not to inconvenience passengers in the main hall.

Especially elaborate lavatory arrangements have been provided for both sexes, and these are stated to be the second to none in the State. Similar provisions have been made upstairs for the staff, and the installation which will be on the water and septic tank system, is well in hand. A commodious mail room flanks the western end of the station.

The platform span is the second largest in the State, being 252ft in length by 70ft in width, covering four sets of rails. The platform itself has a length of 400ft and a width of 20ft. Two marble fountains will be erected for the convenience of travellers, and the platform and approaches will be lit by powerful gas lamps on standards. Hanging signs suspended above each door will denote the various departments.



Unknown. (1913). *Opening Day at the new Townsville Railway Station, 1913*. This picture is held in CityLibraries Local History Collection.

Immediately to the left of the main entrance the station master’s office will be found, with the telegraph operator’s room next door. Then come the guards’ and porters’ rooms, fitted with general furniture. Next to this there is a commodious ladies’ waiting room with lavatories attached. The last section of the building on the eastern side will be used as a lamp-room, with all the modern fittings.

This brief history of the Townsville Railway Station will be concluded in the October newsletter.

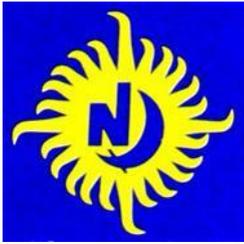
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G. Hallam (n.d.) *Townsville Railway Station*. Accessed 06/10/2013
 The Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld.:1874-1954), Tuesday 23 December 1913, page 7. Accessed 7/10/2013 www.trove.nla.gov.au
 Townsville Daily Bulletin (Qld.:1885-1954), Saturday 25 October 1913, page 2. Accessed 7/10/2013 www.trove.nla.gov.au

All pictures are held in CityLibraries Local History Collection.

Unknown (1907). *The old Townsville railway station, 1907*.

Unknown (1913). *Opening day at the new Townsville Railway Station, 1913*.

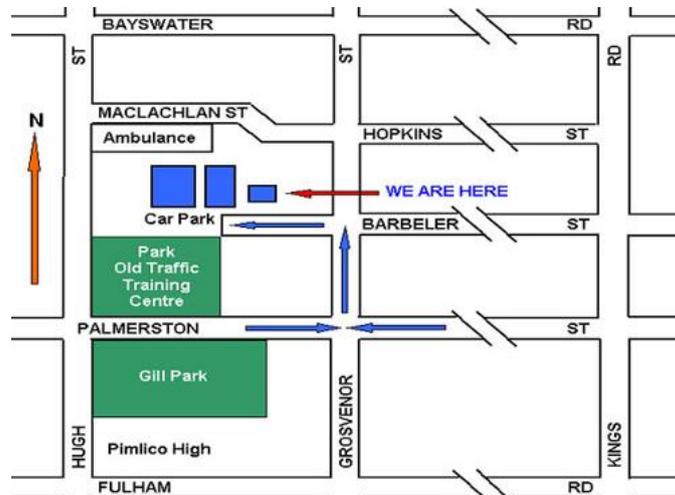


Townsville Museum
and
Historical Society
PO BOX 1562
Aitkenvale QLD 4814
Phone: 07 4775 7838



Email: admin@townsvillemuseum.com.au

Website: <http://www.townsvillemuseum.com.au>



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