



Townsville Museum & Historical Society

1/27 BARBELER STREET, CURRAJONG QLD 4812

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THE STRAND - TOWNSVILLE

A Message From The President By Trish Cronin

Another financial year has passed, and our Annual General meeting was held on 1st September. The committee was once again returned, and this marks the start of 39 years of collecting and preserving Townsville's rich history.

Our biggest challenge is getting new volunteers to assist in maintaining the collections and greeting visitors. Working in a Museum is not everyone's "cup of tea" but providing that support, talking to visitors and assisting the curators with new displays is very rewarding. If you would like to be involved, even one day a week, we would love to have a chat. Just call the Museum on 4775 7838 Monday to Friday between 9am and 2.30pm to arrange a time to chat.

We now have 2 new displays in Hall 1. The story of Hubie Morris, OAM the man who worked so hard in his life advocating for facilities and Guide dogs for blind and vision impaired people like himself. His story is an inspiration.

The other new display is the 1909 pewter Robert Hayles trophy for the Cleveland Bay Yacht race. Both stories are inspirational.

Until next time,

Trish Cronin

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BUSINESS HOURS
MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9:00 AM TO 2:30 PM
ENTRY ADULT \$5 CHILD \$2

MEMBERSHIP FEES
SINGLE \$15.00
FAMILY \$30
CORPORATE \$32.50

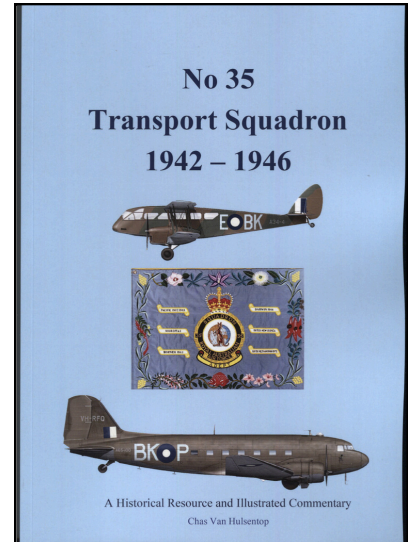


Community News



Left: Museum volunteer Nick with Maliboo at the Angel Paws open day.

Right: A new book about Townsville's WWII history now on sale.



IGUT Open Day

On July 7 the Townsville Museum and Historical Society hosted an open day for members of the Facebook group "*I Grew Up In Townsville.*" The event was a great success with 46 attendees to the museum, including Townsville City councilors and local history enthusiasts. For some member it was their first time visiting the museum as they were unaware where our premises was located - a common problem.

Appeal For Museum Volunteers

Townsville Museum and Historical Society is 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**.

Angel Paws Open Day

Townsville Museum held a fundraising open day on the 10th of August where all entry fees were donated to the charity, Angel Paws. The day was a great success with over 40 visitors to the museum, including two mascot dogs from Angel Paws who warmed the hearts of museum guests and staff alike. \$300 was raised in support.

New Book For Sale!

Local aviation historian Chas Van Hulsentop has recently completed and published a book on the history of the 35th Transport Squadron which was based in Townsville from 1942-1946. Chas' book is a valuable historical resource, full of insight into the role that aviation and the RAAF played in the Second World War in Townsville.

Open days at museums matter because they preserve and showcase the unique history and heritage of a community, fostering a sense of identity and continuity while educating the public about their cultural and historical roots. Museums serve as custodians of local artifacts, stories, and traditions that might otherwise be lost or forgotten.

Limited copies of the book are available to purchase from the Museum, priced at **\$40** each (not including postage). If you are interested please email us at admin@townsvillemuseum.com.au or call us on **4775 7838** to purchase your copy now. At over 190 pages, including photos and maps, the book is a must read for the WWII aviation enthusiast.

Townsville Museum AGM

On September 1, the museum held it's annual general meeting. Current sitting members of the management committee were reappointed as follows.

President: Trish Cronin

Vice President / Treasurer: Nick Shailer

Secretary: Sue Fox

Members: John McDonald & Fay Jones

In addition to these appointments, the AGM also saw two volunteers, (Fay Jones and Petra Cartwright), receive lifetime membership for 10 years of service to the museum. Sue Fox also received a certificate of appreciation for all the hard work she has done as secretary.

Fay, Petra and Sue have shown great dedication and determination in not only preserving Townsville's rich cultural heritage, but also showcasing this social history to the wider community.

Finally, Trish Cronin also received life membership at last year's AGM, but due to a hectic work schedule was unable to receive her award and photo until this year. Thank you to all staff and members for your service in supporting Townsville Museum & Historical Society.



President Trish Cronin receiving her life membership from Treasurer Nick Shailer.



Volunteer Fay Jones receiving her life membership from President Trish Cronin.



Volunteer Sue Fox receiving her certificate of appreciation from President Trish Cronin.



Volunteer Petra Cartwright receiving her life membership from President Trish Cronin.

New Museum Displays

The Townsville Museum and Historical Society is proud to have introduced two new exhibits since the last newsletter publication. **The Robert Hayles Sailing Trophy of 1909**, which is a silver-plated pewter mug is now on display in Hall one.

The trophy is displayed in it's original timber and glass case by the main entrance, near the Magnetic Island to Townsville swim results. The trophy which is called '*Magnetic*' was donated by Robert Hayles in 1909 to the Townsville Sailing club and presented to the winner of a series of competitions held in Cleveland Bay. The final event took place in 1909, while the Hayles family have played a significant role in local tourism for almost 90 years. The trophy was donated to the museum in 1993 by Bert Dunstone Junior.



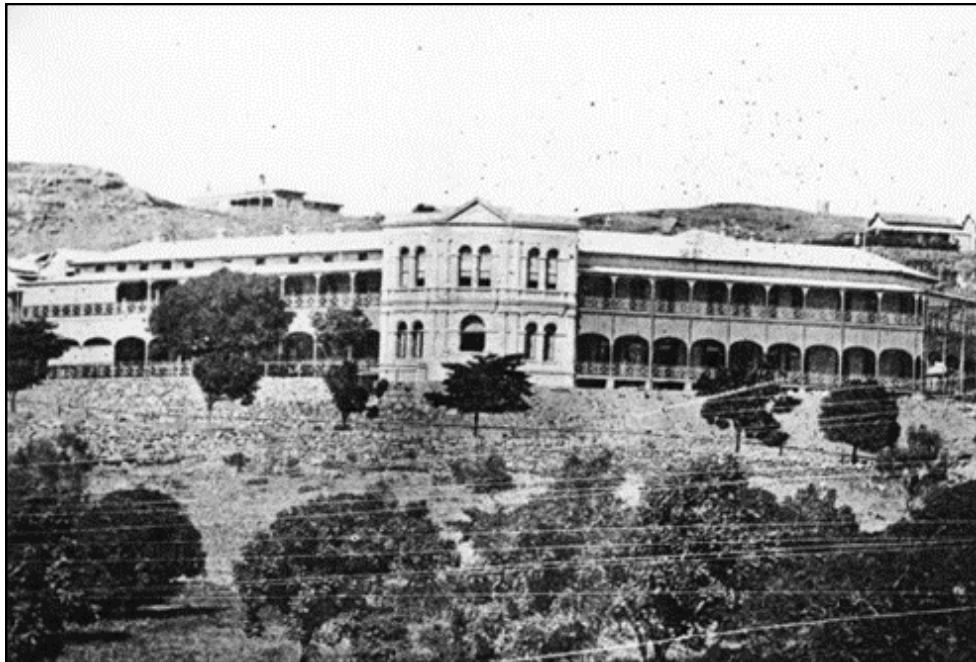
Robert Hayles Sailing Trophy 1909 known as '*Magnetic*', a silver-plated & pewter mug.

The museum's second newest display features **Hubert 'Hubie' Morris**, a well known Townsville personality who advocated for the blind and was the first Australian to receive a seeing-eye dog. Despite having lost his eyesight at 40 years of age, Hubie Morris showed determination not to let that shortcoming stop him as he grew flowers to sell and used those funds to support the Blind Society.

Hubie was well known for dressing immaculately in all white and with a cane in hand as he sold his flowers and also entertained with both his wit and harmonica. In 1960, the Rotary Club of Mundingburra raised funds for Hubie to travel to Perth where he received his first seeing-eye dog, Halda. Hubie was unstoppable with his new canine companion and raised some \$500,000 for societies for the blind, which earned him an OAM in 1979.



Hubert 'Hubie' Morris & his guide dog 'Polar' after receiving his OAM in 1979.



The Burdekin & Flinders District Hospital, Townsville (Old Townsville Hospital) By Georgia Wiggins

The Burdekin and Flinders District Hospital, known today as the old Townsville Hospital, has played a pivotal role in the healthcare landscape of Townsville and North Queensland. From its humble beginnings as a cottage hospital on the Strand to its development into one of the largest and most advanced medical facilities outside a capital city, the hospital's history reflects significant advancements in medical care and infrastructure.

The first iteration of the hospital was a modest cottage located on the Strand in 1866. This early establishment was known as the Burdekin and Flinders District Hospitals, catering to the burgeoning population of Townsville and its surrounding districts. In 1881, the hospital was relocated to Stanton Hill, a move that marked the beginning of a new era of growth and expansion. By 1882, the first building on the new site was completed, with subsequent structures added over the following years to accommodate the increasing demand for medical services.

The early 20th century saw significant developments and delays in the hospital's growth. The construction of the Townsville General Hospital was notably delayed between 1935 and 1939 due to the outbreak of war. However, these interruptions did not halt progress indefinitely. In 1945, Australian politician Edward Michael Hanlon, also known as Ned Hanlon, laid the foundation stone for a new building.

Hanlon, who served as Minister for Health and Home Affairs from 1935 to 1944 and later as Premier from 1946 to 1952, was a key figure in the hospital's development. The new building was officially opened by Hanlon on April 21, 1951. This facility became the largest of its kind in Australia outside a capital city, built at an approximate cost of £500,000 for building and equipment, and initially featured around 270 beds.

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The Burdekin & Flinders District Hospital, Townsville (Rapid Development) By Georgia Wiggins

The hospital experienced rapid development between 1932 and 1945, partly due to the Hospital Act of 1923. This Act divided the state into regions and districts, each managed by a base hospital responsible for coordinating other hospitals in its region. The boards established under the Act had the authority to appoint their own architects, leading to significant developments in hospital infrastructure.

One of Hanlon's notable contributions was the introduction of the free Hospital Scheme to Queensland in 1946. Following this, tenders were called in 1947 for new nurses' quarters at the Townsville hospital. By 1964, the Townsville General Hospital had expanded to include a maternity hospital, a thoracic block, isolation and psychiatric annexes, a dental clinic, an Institute of Tropical Medicine, and a Commonwealth Serum Laboratory.

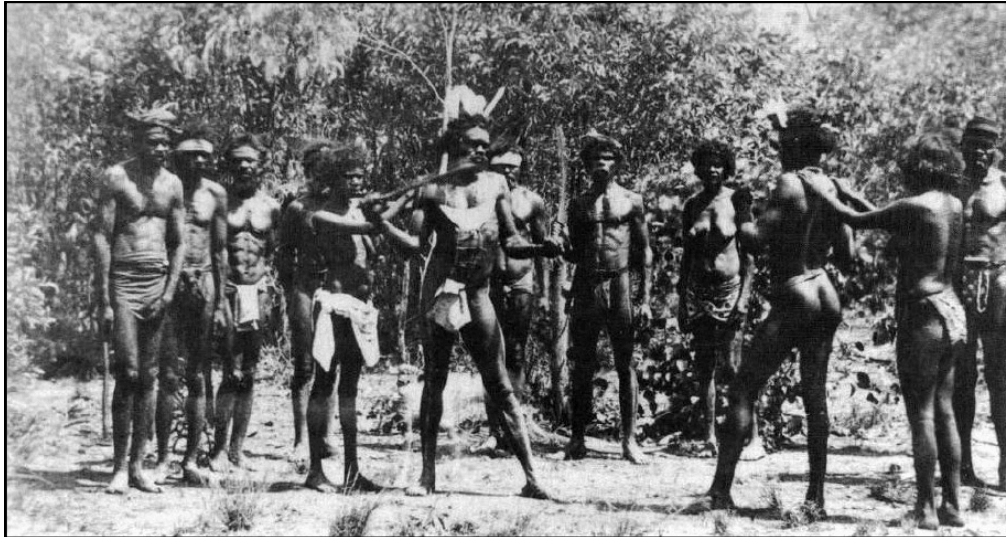
This extensive complex demonstrated the hospital's commitment to providing comprehensive medical care to the region. The hospital's design reflected a broader trend in Australian hospital architecture, inspired by European modernist principles.

The new design moved away from traditional concepts of ventilation and isolation towards more efficient use of space, staff, and resources. This shift resulted in the construction of more compact, high-rise hospital buildings that reduced heating costs and improved circulation between different parts of the facility.

The Townsville General Hospital was likely the first in Queensland to combine these high-rise planning principles with a progressive modern image. The history of the Burdekin and Flinders District Hospital, or the old Townsville Hospital, illustrates the evolution of healthcare facilities in North Queensland.

From its origins as a small cottage hospital to its status as a leading medical institution, the hospital has continually adapted to meet the needs of its community.

Its development has been shaped by legislative changes, significant political support, and advancements in medical theory and architectural design, making it a landmark in the region's healthcare history.

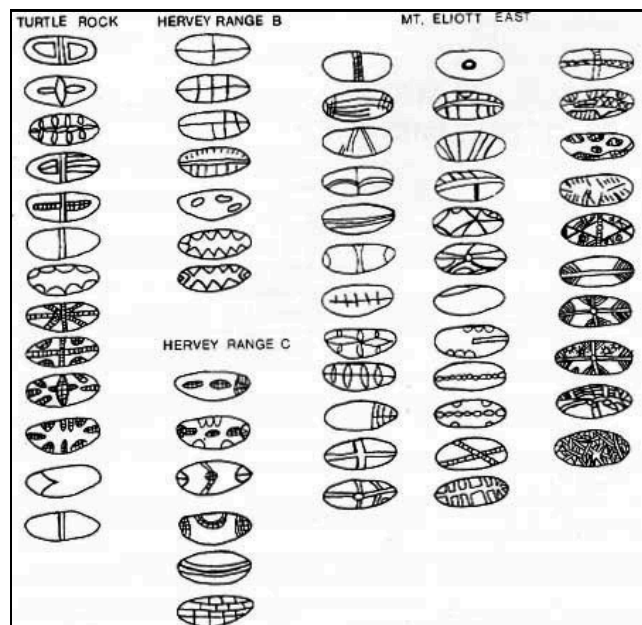


The Wulguruba & Bindal People of Townsville

The Bindal and Wulgurukaba are the first peoples of Townsville who for over 10,000 years inhabited the lands and waters that would later become the settlement of Townsville. Their territory spanned north of the Haughton River to south of Bluewater and as far inland as Hervey Range, which was referred to as '*Thul Garrie Waja*' by the Bindal people in their language or '*Gurrumbilbarra*' in the Wulgurukaba language. Although the Bindal and Wulgurukaba people occupied bordering lands (and with some territorial overlap), they are differentiated by their spoken languages, Wulguru and Bindal.

These shields were made from the buttresses of rainforest fig trees and featured painted designs to project protection, power and also identity of the owner. These patterns differed based on the origin of the bearer with patterns distinct to different areas such as Turtle Rock, Hervey Range, Mt. Elliot, etc. In this manner, the unique patterns serve an almost similar function as the heraldry found on the shields of medieval European knights. In addition to being used in rituals such as dances, they were also used in battle as the shields were linked to personal honour and manhood.

The two indigenous groups have a deep connection to the land with the Wulgurukaba creation story featuring a creation serpent that came down from the Herbert River, swam out to sea and created the Hinchinbrook channel. The Wulgurukaba believe the creation serpent's body then broke apart, with the head at Arcadia on Magnetic Island, the body on Palm Island and the tail at Halifax Bay. Both Bindal and Wulgurukaba people interacted over thousands of years through various ceremonies, rituals and via the trade of goods such as carved boomerangs and painted shields.





Kissing Point Coastal Fortification - Townsville's Response to External Threats

During the mid nineteenth century there was a growing concern in Australia about the threat of naval raids from rival colonial powers such as Russia and France. Regular movements by Russian warships along the east and south-east coast filled the nation with panic. North Queensland with its rich mineral deposits of gold and unguarded trading ports was equally weary of a raid by Russian or French naval forces. Clearly, the region needed to defend itself in case of a raid or worse, an invasion.

Before the mid nineteenth century the defence of Australian colonies was the responsibility of the British government and the British Navy. However, following a British review into colonial military expenditure in 1862 it was expected that Australian colonies would contribute towards the cost of their own protection.

British Royal Engineers Colonel Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois and Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Scratchley produced a report in 1877 which recommended Queensland be defended with a fort in Brisbane. At this time Jervois overlooked Townsville.

In 1878 when Russian forces advanced on the capital of Turkey (a British ally), the threat of invasion loomed large again. This time however, Townsville wasn't ignored and in June of the same year the Queensland Volunteer Artillery Brigade was formed. It wasn't until 1891 when the construction of the two-gun coastal battery at Kissing Point was completed. The battery included the mounting of two 64 pounder guns, as well as the provisioning of one or more torpedo boats to attack larger more heavily armoured vessels.

Although Townsville had already established an artillery corps, the gun battery was not installed or operational until after the appointment of Major Edward Druitt in 1889. Druitt oversaw the final the completion the fort which consisted of two 6-inch B.L. Mark V guns, two 64 pounder guns and two 0.45-inch Nordenfelt machine guns.

These were deemed sufficient to repel raiding forces by hostile French or Russian naval powers and adequate enough to deter any potential naval invasion of the region. Although no such conflict occurred, the fort would prove valuable in World War II.



Kissing Point Coastal Fortification - Defending the North in the Second World War

Between the late nineteenth century and the First World War, no changes were made to the Kissing Point Coastal Fortification, as it was deemed adequate for any potential threat. This is largely because of the quick capture of German New Guinea early in the conflict, combined with British naval supremacy. This meant there was no immediate threat to Townsville or north Queensland during World War I.

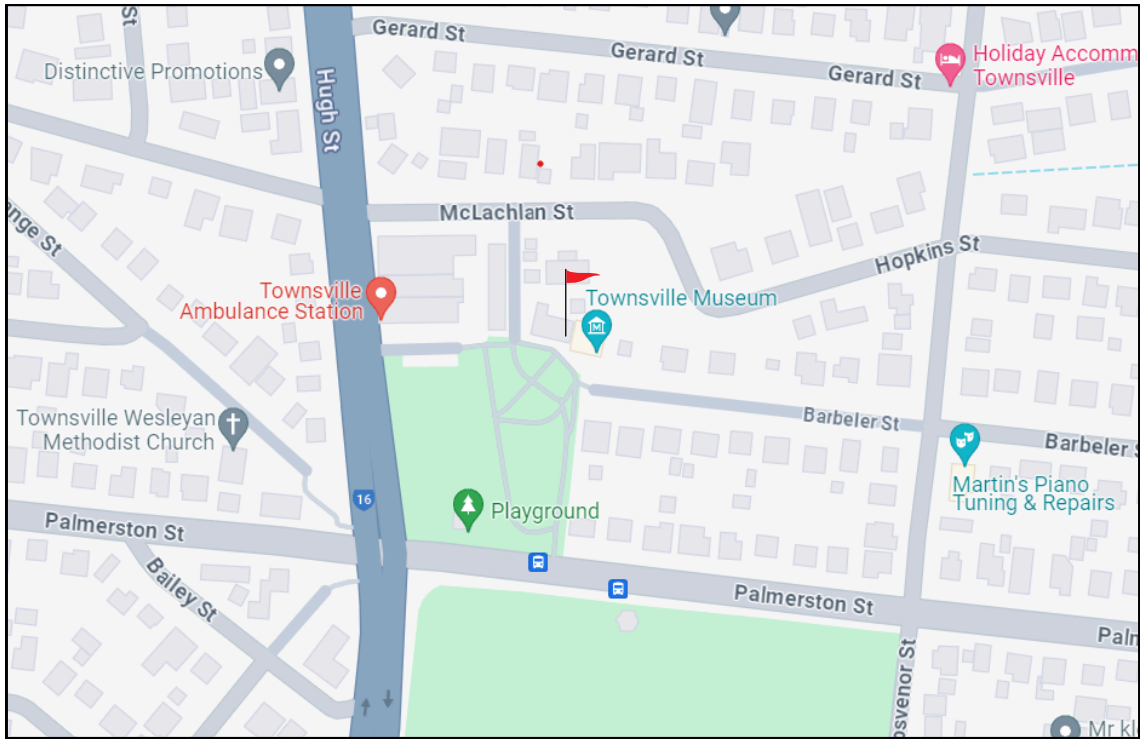
However, technological innovations during the Second World War meant the coastal battery had to be updated to counter new threats and the very real possibility of a Japanese invasion of Queensland and the Australian continent. As such in 1936, the outdated 64 pounder cannons were replaced by 4.7-inch (120mm) guns to repel possible Japanese raiding vessels or invasion.

However, by the time of 1943 with the war in the Pacific ever creeping closer to the Japanese home islands and away from Australia, the threat of Japanese attack diminished drastically. Given the number of military aircraft in Townsville, Kissing Point was no longer seen as strategically relevant.

The 4.7 inch (120mm) guns at Kissing Point were relocated to a new coastal battery which had been constructed at Cape Pallarenda to defend the northern channel approach. Although the threat of naval attack by the Japanese was almost impossible at this time. As such the fortresses were often used as fuel and munition dumps as the greatest threat of attack was from Japanese aircraft and bombing raids.

While the Kissing Point Coastal Fortifications are no longer in use or operation, they still continue to serve another very important service to the Townsville and north Queensland community in the form of heritage as a connection to our past. On February 5, 2010 the Kissing Point Fortification was placed on the Queensland Heritage Register under the name of Jezzine Barracks - it's other namesake.

The site was deemed important for demonstrating the evolution of Queensland's history and a place to yield information and understanding of that history. Furthermore, it is a significant location as it demonstrates the importance of Townsville to the defence of the nation in WWII.



 **1/27 BARBELER STREET, CURRAJONG, 4812**

Our Supporters



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