

Newsletter of the

# TOWNSVILLE MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

February 2023

1/27 Barbeler Street Currajong Q 4812

PO Box 785 Hyde Park Q 4812



## Special Points of Interest:

- *The Criterion Hotel*
- *A very early article on Townsville published in 1891 in the Sydney Mail*
- *Valued donor to Museum, Margaret Wilson, celebrates her centenary*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to our members and friends and 2023 is going to be a very busy one for the Museum. In May we are celebrating 100 years of the Queensland Country Women's Association and the Museum is working with the members of the Townsville branch to create a special display on the 100 years of service to the community. A formal launch of the display will be held in May by the Mayor of Townsville Councillor Jenny Hill. The display will feature QCWA memorabilia with a timeline of events and will be at the Museum for 12 months. This is a very exciting time for the members of QCWA and the Museum.

As always the Museum is looking for volunteers and we have welcomed another new volunteer, Maree. Elspeth has decided to do an Arts course and will devote her time to that project over the next year. Wendy is very busy with the scanning of our photo collection and is being assisted by Beryl. When completed the collection will be easily accessible for researches and researchers.

There will also be new history boards on display soon featuring early settlement of Townsville from when Captain Cook sailed through Cleveland Bay to the first selection of land in 1864. Wing Commander Sir Lawrence Wackett's distinguished flying career and prominent businessman, Phillip Leong OAM will be part of the new display.

Exciting times ahead and we look forward to seeing visitors to the Museum throughout the year. Spread the word to friends and family.

Regards to all,  
Trish Cronin  
President

## 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

ENTRY Adults \$5 Chn \$2

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

Single \$ 11.00

Couples \$ 16.50

Corporate \$ 32.50

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.



Valued donor to the museum, Margaret Wilson, celebrates 100 years later this month.

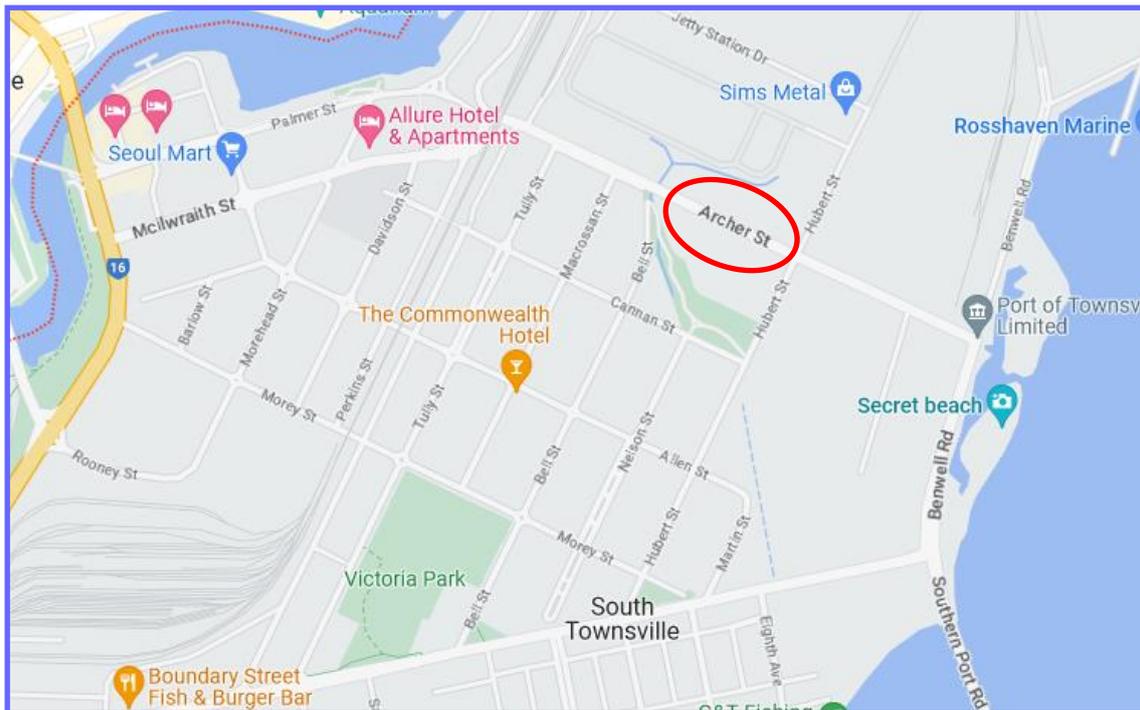
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## ARCHER STREET, SOUTH TOWNSVILLE

Archer Street, South Townsville. Archibald Archer represented the Blackall electorate from 1879 to 1883 and later Rockhampton in the Legislative Assembly. He served in the McIllwraith Ministry as Colonial Treasurer and Secretary for Public Instruction in 1882-83.

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



The Electorate of Blackall no longer exists but here is some history on the electorate as it was when Archer was an MLA. The following is an extract taken from Wikipedia, using Queensland Government documents as references. Both articles, pages 2 and 3, were accessed 5 February 2023.

**Blackall** was a Legislative Assembly electorate in the state of Queensland from 1873 to 1888.<sup>[1]</sup>

Member	Party	Term
Peter Fitzallan MacDonald		18 Nov. 1873 – 28 Nov. 1878
<b>Archibald Archer</b>	Independent	28 Nov. 1878 – 23 Jan. 1886
William Pattison		13 Apr. 1886 – 5 May 1888

Blackall	
Queensland –Legislative Assembly	
State	Queensland
<b>Created</b>	1873
<b>Abolished</b>	1888
<b>Demographic</b>	Rural

Blackall was established in 1873 as a single-member constituency by the 1872 *Electoral Districts Act* and covered the rural surrounding areas of Rockhampton from the coast to the ranges. It was abolished in the 1887 redistribution, being split up into two new electorates, Electoral district of Fitzroy and Electoral district of Rockhampton North, and the existing Electoral district of Normanby.<sup>[1]</sup>

REFERENCE

1. "Representatives of Queensland State Electorates 1860-2017" (PDF). Queensland Parliamentary Record 2012-2017: The 55th Parliament. Queensland Parliament. Archived from the original (PDF) on 27 April 2020. Retrieved 27 April 2020.

## ARCHER STREET, SOUTH TOWNSVILLE



**Archibald Archer** M.L.A., J.P., (18 March 1820 – 6 February 1902)<sup>[1]</sup> was a Queensland politician, a Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly, and Treasurer of Queensland. He was one of the Archer brothers, an early Queensland pioneering family.

### Personal life

Archibald Archer was born in Fife, Scotland on 18 March 1820, the son of William Archer, of Larvik, Norway.<sup>[2]</sup> At age 5, Archer went with his father to Norway and was educated in Norway. Later he spent five years in an engineering establishment in Scotland. Archer emigrated to Australia, where he arrived in 1842, but only stayed five months, subsequently spending thirteen years in the South Sea and Sandwich Islands. In the latter he was engaged on coffee and sugar plantations.<sup>[2]</sup>

By Unknown author - Gooreen collection, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9023170>

Returning to Queensland in 1860, Archer took up his residence at Gracemere station.

In 1896, Archer left Australia<sup>[3]</sup> and died at the family's Norwegian estate, Tolderedden, Larvik, Norway on 6 February 1902 aged 81 years.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Public life

Archer was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Queensland as the member for Rockhampton from 27 July 1867 to 19 November 1869,<sup>[5]</sup> during which he assisted in passing the Land Act of 1868.

On 28 November 1878, Archer was elected again to the Legislative Assembly of Queensland as the member for Blackall which he held until 23 January 1886.<sup>[5]</sup> During this term, he was Treasurer and Secretary for Public Instruction in the first Thomas McIlwraith Government from 5 January 1882 to 13 November 1883.<sup>[5]</sup>

On 5 May 1888, Archer was elected again to the Legislative Assembly of Queensland as the member for Rockhampton (again) which he held until 4 April 1896.<sup>[5]</sup> Archer was a strong advocate of the subdivision of Queensland. In 1892 Mr. Archer visited England in company with John Ferguson as a deputation on behalf of the Central Queensland Territorial Separation League.<sup>[2]</sup>

### References

1. O'Keefe, Mary. "Archer, Archibald (1820–1902)". *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. National Centre of Biography, Australian National University. ISSN 1833-7538. Retrieved 29 June 2013.
2. Mennell, Philip (1892). "Archer, Archibald". *The Dictionary of Australasian Biography*. London: Hutchinson & Co – via Wikisource.
3. "DEATH OF MR. A. ARCHER". *The Capricornian*. Rockhampton, Qld: National Library of Australia. 22 February 1902. p. 31. Retrieved 26 February 2013.
4. Death certificate for Archibald Archer (original in Norwegian plus English translation) within Supreme Court Central District Rockhampton Ecclesiastical Files 42/1902, accessed 26 February 2013 at Queensland State Archives
5. "Part 2.15 – Alphabetical Register of Members of the Legislative Assembly 1860–2017 and the Legislative Council 1860–1922" (PDF). *Queensland Parliamentary Record 2015–2017: The 55th Parliament*. Queensland Parliament. Archived from the original on 26 April 2020. Retrieved 27 April 2020.

## A PUB CRAWL THROUGH TOWNSVILLE— CRITERION HOTEL

Text from: “*A Pattern of Pubs: Hotels of Townsville 1864-1914*” by Dorothy and Bruce Gibson-Wilde.



Criterion Hotel

Photo taken in 2016 by Wendy Simpkins

The first ‘hotel’ in Townsville was an unlicensed log hut close to the site of the present *Criterion*<sup>2</sup>. In May 1865, seven months after the first settlers arrived, William A. Ross applied for a licence for Townsville’s legal hotel ‘to be kept under the sign of the Criterion Hotel’, containing three sitting rooms and twelve bedrooms.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> *Townsville Herald* Supplement, 24 December 1887.

<sup>3</sup> *Port Denison Times*, 20 May 1865.

Ross, probably Townsville’s first Australian born citizen, was born in Tasmania. At an early age he crossed to Victoria when gold was discovered and by the late 1880s was associated with John Melton Black, running the bars at Black’s Theatre Royal in Melbourne. When Black came north, Ross came with him; in November 1864 he and Charles S. Rowe (q.v.) were among the first settlers to reach the site of the future Townsville.

As landlord of the *Criterion* he was very popular; he introduced the town’s (and probably north Queensland’s) first barmaids in 1865, later marrying one of them, Miss Gilchrist. In fact Ross nearly lost the licence in 1866 when the local policeman objected on the grounds that Miss Gilchrist was living at the hotel as Ross’s mistress. To overcome this objection, she was hastily sent to Bowen.<sup>1</sup> From hotel-keeping Ross turned to trade, establishing the trading business Ross & Co. at Townsville, Cape River and Ravenswood, but was unsuccessful, returning to the *Commercial* in 1869. Later he kept hotels at Argentine and at Charters Towers, where he died from gangrene in 1887.

When his hotel opened in August 1865, he advertised it as ‘The Criterion Hotel, Castletown, Cleveland Bay’, with two storeys, twenty-five rooms, a balcony four metres wide and a billiard table.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Letter R. Maughan to J. T. Walker, 30 December 1866.

<sup>2</sup> *Port Denison Times*, 5 August 1865.

## A PUB CRAWL THROUGH TOWNSVILLE— CRITERION HOTEL

The building was erected and furnished by Black & Co.; Black's partner Robert Towns objected strongly to the installation of a piano and billiard table, regarding them as 'unnecessary temptations [which] will not improve the moral code of society in Townsville'.<sup>3</sup> His censures became even stronger when an unproven and mischievous report reached Sydney that at the opening of the hotel 'the whole community were in a state of drunkenness' for three weeks. When Ross imported the first barmaids (Misses Colvin, Gilchrist and O'Dowda) Towns referred to them as a 'number of loose women'. However, on his only visit to 'Townsville' early in 1866, he appears to have become reconciled to their presence, even enjoying their company on a picnic to Magnetic Island.

Meanwhile the *Criterion* was fulfilling the needs of the new township as a community meeting place, an entertainment centre and offices, as well as providing board for the many bachelors stationed in the town to run the early businesses. Its history is entwined with the foundation of many of the town's amenities: the first Hospital Committee, the first Gold Committee and the first Masonic Lodge, all in 1866.<sup>4</sup> Nominations for the inaugural Municipal Council were called and the first Council met at the hotel in 1866 with J. M. Black as Mayor.<sup>5</sup> The town's first solicitor J. R. Cowan commenced practice in rooms at the *Criterion* and the company that took over the town's newspaper, *The Cleveland Bay Express*, was formed there in 1867, as was the first Benefit and Building Society.<sup>6</sup>

Electioneering meetings for the first Kennedy elections centred on the *Criterion* and the *Exchange* (then next door), with Korah Wills and his followers meeting at the *Criterion* and the eventually successful candidate George Elphinstone Dalrymple holding forth at the *Exchange*.<sup>1</sup> In 1866 the first visiting artists to perform in Townsville appeared there; although their performance was described as 'tenth rate', they provided a welcome change from the monotony of life in the wilderness.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Gibson-Wilde, op.cit., p.54.

<sup>4</sup> *Port Denison Times*, 9 June 1866.

<sup>5</sup> *Cleveland Bay Express*, 20 October 1866; *Port Denison Times*, 31 January 1866.

<sup>6</sup> *Port Denison Times*, 2 May 1866, 20 June 1866 and 11 May 1867; *Mackay Mercury*, 5 October 1867.

Further information can be found in

*"A Pattern of Pubs: Hotels of Townsville 1864-1914"* by Dorothy and Bruce Gibson-Wilde.

Criterion Hotel

Photo taken in 2016 by Wendy Simpkins



82 *Criterion*, 1903.  
Rear view of the hotel in ruins after cyclone Leonta.

Published in "A Pattern of Pubs" by Dorothy and Bruce Gibson-Wilde.



## CEMETERY HEADSTONES BY NICK SHAILER

Nick has included an image of the headstone of Father Taylor and two articles published in the newspapers around the time of his death, 28th July 1919.



### DEATH OF FATHER TAYLOR

News has just been received by the Very Rev. Dean Holley, S.M., of the death at Townsville, Queensland, of the Rev. Father James Taylor, S.M., Supervisor of the Marist Missionary Fathers. Father Taylor was but 44 years of age, and was a native of Wairoa, Hawkes Bay. After preliminary studies under the late Father Yardin, S.M., at Meeanee, Father Taylor entered St. Patrick's College in the early 'nineties, and later old St. Mary's College, Meeanee, where he began his theological studies. Afterwards he studied in various colleges of the Marist Fathers in Italy and France, and after his ordination to the priesthood was appointed to St. Mary's College, Dandalk, Ireland, the Alma Mater of most of the Marist Fathers of the Irish and New Zealand provinces. Soon after he was transferred to another college of his Order, All Hallows, Salt Lake City, U.S.A., and after two years he was sent to New Zealand, where he was appointed to the teaching staff of St. Patrick's College. Later he was appointed to parochial work, and served as curate in the parishes of Timaru and Greymouth, till he was finally made parish priest of Leceston, from whence he was appointed to the staff of the Marist Fathers' Missionhouse, Tenuka. For a number of years past he has been giving missions in New Zealand and in New South Wales and Queensland with great success. He was a man of very studious and retiring nature, of deep earnestness and sincere piety, and while his demise is a great loss to his Order and to the priesthood of New Zealand, he will be remembered by hosts of people throughout the Dominion as a gentleman of great kindness of heart, unswerving principle, and solid learning.

**FUNERAL NOTICE**

THE FUNERAL of the VERY REV. ERMEND JAMES TAYLOR, S.M., will move from the Sacred Heart Church, City, THIS (Tuesday) MORNING, at 10 o'clock, for Old Cemetery. Requiem Mass at 9.15 a.m.

P. HRATLEY,  
Undertaker,

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**H. A. C. H. SOCIETY.**

NORTH QUEENSLAND DISTRICT  
No. 10.

ALL MEMBERS of the Society are requested to attend (in Regalia) the FUNERAL of The Very Rev. James Taylor, S.M., to move from the Sacred Heart Church THIS (Tuesday) MORNING at 10 o'clock for the Old Cemetery.

M. T. DOWNBY,  
District Secretary.

**AN EARLY ARTICLE ON TOWNSVILLE: THE SYDNEY MAIL 6 JUNE 1891—TOWNSVILLE**

*Published in The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser Saturday 6th June 1891, page 1272*

Townsville

Quite recently we gave a view of that part of this busy Queensland town which exhibited the wharfs, with Castle Hill in the background. We now present our readers with illustrations on an ampler scale, showing other chief portions of the town and the surrounding country. For the following particulars of the town and locality we are indebted to the excellent description in Gordon and Gotch's "Queensland Railway and Tourists' Guide," lately published:- Townsville is a large and important town on the shores of Cleveland Bay. The bay was named after the Duke of Cleveland. An immense bight sweeps round from Cape Cleveland to where Ross Creek empties itself in the bay, the only streams of any consequence in the whole distance, about 40 miles, being Alligator and Stuart Creeks, a few miles from the mouth of Ross Creek. The tourist beholds some remarkable scenery from the deck of the steamer in Cleveland Bay. To the east lies the Cape Cleveland Range, and away to the south-east rises the majestic form of Mount Elliott, to a height of over 4,000ft. From south to west rise the fantastic peaks and domes and serrated edges of the Main Coast Range. At the northern entrance to the harbour stands the Cape Pallarenda Range, Mount Many Peak rising to 750ft. To the north the gloomy gorges and ravines of Magnetic Island, and away through the north entrance he beholds Rattlesnake Island, the Palm Islands, and lofty dark-blue summits of the mountains of Hinchinbrook Island and the Cardwell Range. South-west, on the main land, lies the town of Townsville, picturesquely situated at the base of Castle Hill, a savage cliff faced granite mass, rising abruptly 850ft from the shores of Ross Creek, forming a conspicuous land mark – an impregnable fortress erected there by nature to guard the township slumbering serenely in blissful confidence beneath. This hill is called Cootharinga by the blacks. From the summit you look down over the whole of Townsville, with a magnificent view to all points of the compass. From the bay you only behold the houses along the beach and on the slopes of Castle Hill. The town itself lies at the foot of the southern side of the hill, between the base and Ross Creek, across which a bridge connects it with Ross Island, thickly populated rather low lying flat, formed into an island by Ross River and Ross Creek which junction a couple of miles inland from the bay. From the mouth of Ross Creek northward for two miles is Kissing Point, a rocky headland dipping into the bay, stretches a splendid, clean, wide, hard beach forming a grand natural esplanade – a favourite walk, drive and ride- available at any stage of the tide. The main street of the town – Flinders Street – is well formed, with good pathways, and lined on both sides by shops, hotels, banks, and offices, some of the buildings representing neat and graceful architecture. Townsville is well supplied with hotels, and at least six of them will bear favourable comparison with an equal number in any provincial town in Australia. There is a full supply of hansom cabs and waggonettes, while buses ran regularly to the suburbs of Hermit Park and Mundingburra. Among the public buildings is a large combined post and telegraph office, with a clock tower.

## THE SYDNEY MAIL 6 JUNE 1891—TOWNSVILLE

The hospital stands on a commanding position on the north slope of the spur behind the town, and a little beyond, on the flat at the foot of the eastern face of the main hill, lies the botanic garden, tastefully laid out, displaying excellent judgement in the selection of plants, and promising a future worthy of the advancing town. Near the garden stands the Grammar School, an elegant building, wisely situated; and a little beyond are the buildings forming the Townsville Orphanage, situated with an equal regard for pure air and natural drainage. The general health of Townsville is decidedly good. The system of drainage, and attention to sanitary laws, has ended in almost a total abolition of the fever which was occasionally prevalent in the early years, much the same as in the morning of nearly all the other coast towns of Queensland.

The town commands an extensive and progressive trade. To the westward lie the rich mines of Charters Towers, Ravenswood, and the Cape river, while beyond stretches a splendid pastoral region, far out north and south, and west to the borders of Western Australia. On the rolling downs of the Flinders and its tributaries is some of the finest pastoral country in Australia. In the vast tract of mineral country to the rear of Townsville are deposits of gold, silver, tin, copper, lead, bismuth, cinnabar, and graphite. Behind that already important town, sprung suddenly in a little more than a dozen years into full life and commercial vigour, lie resources representing possibilities that will one day expand Townsville into a city.

So far the sea trade has been somewhat impeded by defective harbour accommodation. Only small steamers and vessels of light draught can ascend Ross Creek to the town wharfs. This defect is being treated by a slow but hopeful remedy. From a point on Ross Island (a small rocky and originally isolated hill called Magazine Island) extends a solid stone jetty to a total of 4085ft into the bay. This jetty is 1.7ft wide on the top, with a broad base of 110ft. On the weather side is a concrete parapet, 4ft square, and on the inner side a 2ft square coping, 1ft above the surface. The total cost of this jetty has been about £125,000, including a causeway 900ft long and 30ft wide, between Magazine and Ross Islands. At the end of this jetty is a depth of 11ft at low water. This work was commenced in 1876 and stopped for two or three years after completion of the first section. On the western side of the mouth of Ross Creek a breakwater of heavy stones to a width of 11ft, is being extended 5400ft. Of this work the Government constructed 2400ft by day labour, the remaining distance of 3,000ft is being done by a contract which expires at the end of 1891. This breakwater runs out towards the end of the jetty and between them is an enclosed basin, 40 acres of which are to be dredged to a depth of 15ft at low water spring tides. The spring tides rise up to 10ft 6in. and neaps fall to 4ft and 6ft. When this breakwater and dredging works are completed, ocean steamers will be able to enter and berth alongside the wharfs on the jetty or at the base of the breakwater and the Townville Harbour troubles will be consigned to the oblivion of the past.

Townsville was named after Captain Robert Towns, an old Northumbrian mariner, born on the 10th of November 1791, in Northumberland, and died at Cranbrook, Rose Bay, Sydney on the 4th of April, 1873. In 1863 he joined Mr J. M. Black as owner of stations on the Burdekin, from a branch of which all the station produce was shipped until the discovery of a port at Cleveland Bay, by Mr Andrew Ball, in 1864. Mr Ball was then manager of Woodstock Station, and is now living in Townsville as a retired citizen.

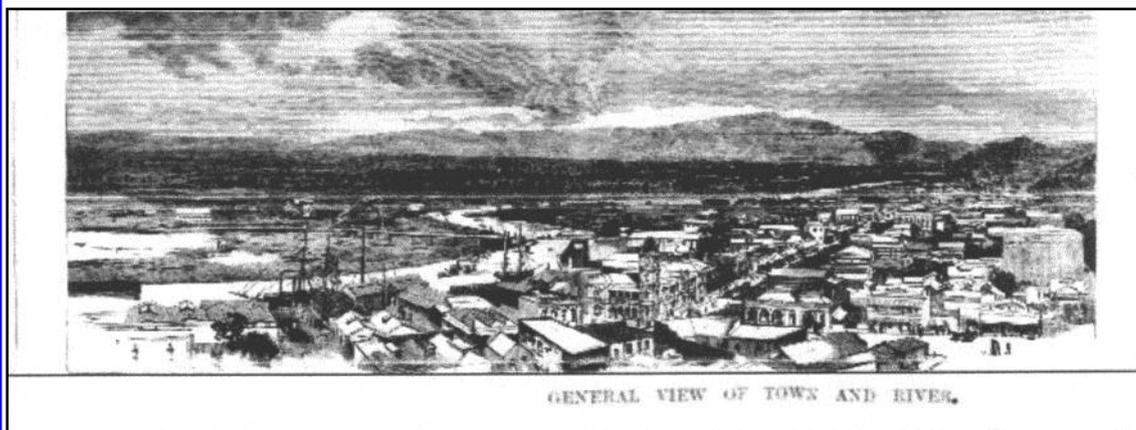
## THE SYDNEY MAIL 6 JUNE 1891—TOWNSVILLE

*Published in The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser Saturday 6th June 1891, page 1272*

In April, 1864, he first stood upon the present site of Townsville, and rode over where is now an important township, and looked out on the unsullied waters of that bay which to-day presents so active a scene of shipping industry and animation. The fugacious wallaby hopped gaily over the rocks of Melton Hill, the solemn kangaroo slept his noon-day siesta on the flats of Hermit Park, the stately emu strode majestically through the pandanus around the base of rock-crested Cootharinga and on the brow of Kissing Point the wild myall chanted his dismal song as a sad accompaniment to the mournful wailing of the restless surge. And as Cootharinga bore some resemblance to Castletown, capital of the Isle of Wight, Mr Ball named it "Castle Hill." In October, 1865 Sir George Bowen visited the new port, and extolled the enthusiastic band who received him as the Heaven sent pioneers of a new empire, and concluded by invoking the special blessings of Providence on themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns. Cleveland Bay was proclaimed a port of entry on October 10th 1865. The first newspaper was the *Cleveland Bay Herald*, issued by J.T. Brown, on the 3rd of March, 1866. The first direct steamer from Sydney was the Rangatira, Captain Harley, whose arrival was celebrated by a banquet in the Criterion Hotel. Now Townsville is a town of at least 12,000 inhabitants, a municipality, incorporated in 1866, and governed by 12 aldermen, a press represented by one morning, two evening and two weekly newspapers – the Bulletin (established 1881), the Star and Telegraph, the Herald and Sentinel.

This is a brief outline of a town destined to play an important part in the future of North Queensland, and for which a great future will be evolved from the splendid mineral and pastoral resources of that rich western country that must ever regard Townsville as its natural seaport, and "home-loved city by the sounding sea."

The first sod of the Townsville railway was turned in February, 1871. The first section of 34 miles, to the Reid River, was opened on December 20, 1880. This line passes away to beyond the Reid River, across alluvium bone drift of the Post Tertiary Period, across one small belt of slate, and enters the granite of the range, this granite continuing to Charters Towers, where the line crosses a section of the Towers gold-bearing slates, once more enters a belt of granite, from which it emerges on the Desert Sandstone, and continues in this formation until it arrives on the Flinders watershed, and passes out into the cretaceous rolling downs of the west. The line is now completed to Hughenden, a small township on the head of the Flinders, 236 miles west from the seaport.

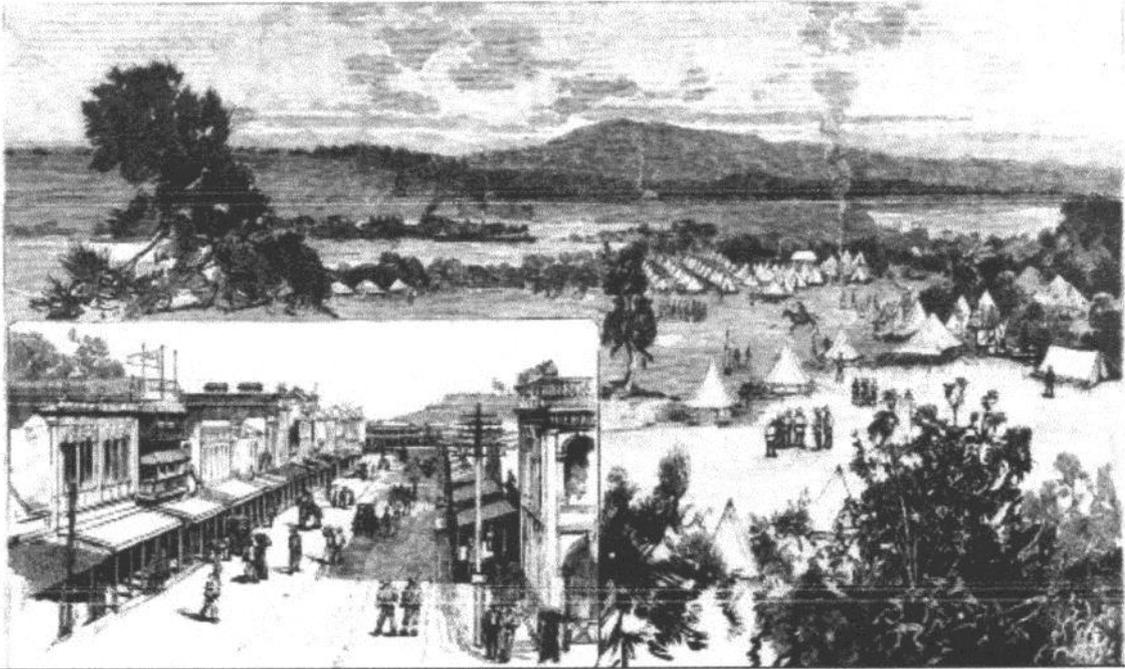


GENERAL VIEW OF TOWN AND RIVER.

*Published in The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser Saturday 6th June 1891, page 1267.*

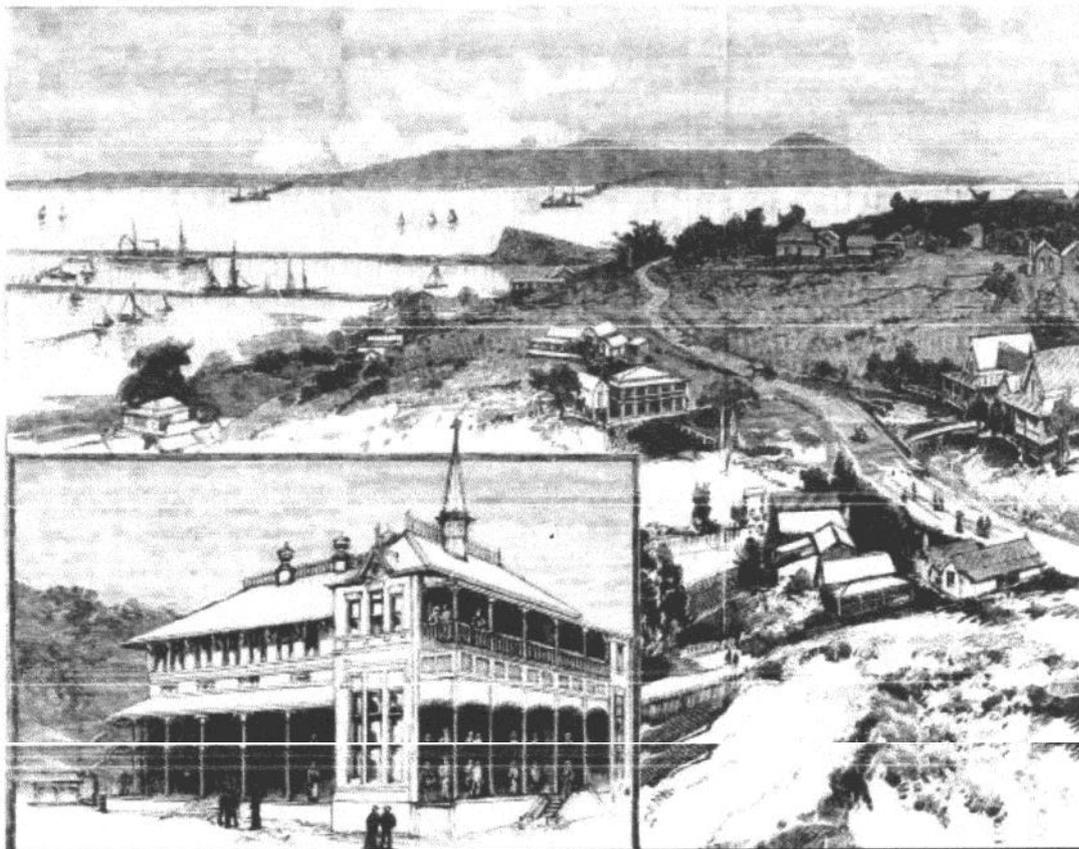
## THE SYDNEY MAIL 6 JUNE 1891—TOWNSVILLE

*Published in The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser Saturday 6th June 1891, page 1267.*



VIEW LOOKING ALONG FLINDERS-STREET.

MILITARY CAMPING GROUND.



GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

TOWNSVILLE HARBOUR AND JETTIES.

## MARGARET JOHNSTON WILSON— A LONG TIME SUPPORTER OF TM&HS

### Margaret Johnston Wilson (nee Keith)

It is not every day the Museum has the privilege of knowing an exceptional lady who has given so many artefacts, photos and documents on Townsville's history to the Museum.

Her name is Margaret Wilson and on the 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 she turns **100** years of age.

Margaret was born in Leith, a suburb of Edinburgh, Scotland on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1923 and migrated to Australia with her parents in 1926. She spent her early childhood living in Kirribilli on the northern side of Sydney and received her education at the Primary school and later North Sydney Girls' High School. One of the highlights of her early life was walking across the newly completed Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 before the official opening.

In 1940 at age 17, Margaret started work at WD & HO Wills, Kensington, catching the train and tram to a well-paid job, sorting tobacco leaves. This work never encouraged Margaret to smoke. In 1942, a young Townsville man, Gordon Wilson came to board with his Aunt, Violet Kerin at 129 Carabella Street, Kirribilli and was destined to meet Margaret who lived at 147 Carabella Street, Kirribilli. That chance meeting started off a wonderful long marriage for Gordon and Margaret when they married on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1945. In 1946, a trip to Townsville to see where Gordon grew up changed their lives. Torrential rain washed away the Burdekin Rail Bridge, the main access south, so they decided to stay in Townsville.

Gordon and Margaret lived at 20 Clarendon Street, Hyde Park next door to his parents Arthur and Millie Wilson. On 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1948 daughter Denise was born and that same year Gordon started his electrical contract business and Margaret was the office manager looking after everything from phone calls to payments. On 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1952 their second daughter Robyn was born.

The life of a 'stay at home' wife and mother meant lots of sewing, helping with homework and lots of cooking which meant many happy morning teas with family, friends, and neighbours. The 1950's – 1960's was the era of hats, gloves and stockings and Margaret was ever the fashion plate and this is evident in some of the artefacts which Margaret has given to the Museum over the years. Margaret and Gordon enjoyed a wonderful life travelling which included a trip back to Scotland in 1975 followed by many more travel ventures. Margaret only learnt to drive in 1974 and continued until the age of 95, when she thought it "was time" to hand over the keys.

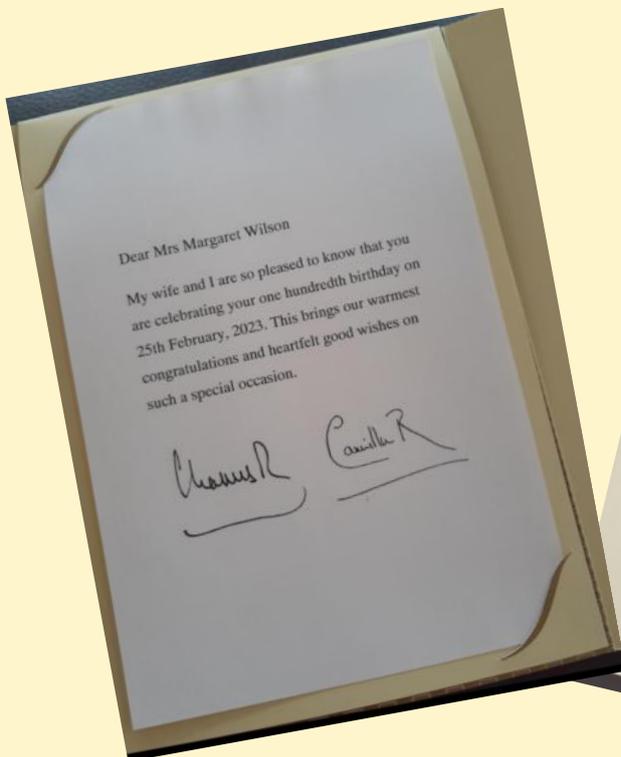
In 2008, Gordon sadly passed. Margaret was involved in many Clubs in Townsville, including Bowls and the Probus Club. In 2020, Margaret decided to leave Townsville to live near Robyn at Banora Point.



***On behalf of the Management and Members of Townsville Museum & Historical Society, we wish Margaret a very Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.***



# MARGARET WILSON—A VALUABLE DONOR TO OUR MUSEUM





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