

# *Peach Trees Gazette*

Peachester History Committee Inc. Newsletter  
Number 179 ~ March 2022

## NEWS AND COMING EVENTS

**SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Lunch meeting from 11.00am at Peachester Community Hall – first PHC general meeting for the year, after our cautious start to 2022.

Back to normal we hope, so please bring lunch to share. Guest Speaker will be George Cowin, President of the Qld Manx Society (more details page 2). Visitors welcome.

**SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Peachester Village markets, hosted by QCWA, 8.00am to 12 noon. PHC members are running the canteen – sausage sizzle and drinks. The Heritage Centre will also be open for visitors. Let us know if you would like to help.

**SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** Regular fourth Sunday open day at the Heritage Centre, 10.00am to 2.00pm. Please help to pass on the message that we are back to normal and will be open to the public on the fourth Sunday of each month.

**SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL:** PHC lunch meeting and AGM, from 11.00am at Peachester Hall. More details to come.

**NOTE REGARDING PAYMENTS TO PHC:** If you need to send us payment for any reason, or a donation, please make cheques out to "Peachester History Committee Inc" so there is no problem with banking it. Most banks these days are very particular about the correct payee details.

We hope everyone is safe and well, coping with changing Covid guidelines and also with south-east Queensland's current "weather event". Looking forward to catching up soon if you can join us at any of the activities listed.

Helen (54949557), Jocelyn (54390895)

## PERHAPS A FINAL COMMENT ON COVID?



## LOCAL WEATHER REPORT

In Bureau of Meteorology terms, south east Qld has just lived through a "severe weather event", in fact we are still dealing with the aftermath; and the weather system which caused it is now creating havoc in northern NSW.

Constant heavy rain caused widespread flooding, and for a time Peachester was completely isolated. All roads leading in and out of the township were cut – Bald Knob Road, Commissioner's Flat Road, Beerwah-Kilcoy Road impassable to the west at the Stanley River Bridge (photo thanks to Debbie Mangan), and to the east at the Beerwah School intersection (Ch 7 photo).

You may notice in Debbie's photo a rescue is taking place after a truck was swept off the road on the western side of the bridge – a learning experience for us all, as even a truck was no match for the strength of that fast-flowing water.

There have been huge rainfall totals, with numerous locations measuring 1000mm or more during the event, and many places recording over 300mm in a single day.

At times like this we think of famous local weatherman Inigo Jones, whose weather research and long-range forecasts made him a household name throughout Australia during the 1930s to 1950s.

Did you know that in February 1893 at the time of major floods in Brisbane and SE Qld, Inigo recorded 35.71 inches (907mm) in 24 hours at Crohamhurst? This is still an Australian record.

Considered in the context of the extensive flooding and damage to homes, businesses, roads and farms we have just experienced, imagine if there had been 907mm in any 24 hour period during the last week!



## FAREWELL TO BARRY FORSYTH

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of a good friend for many Peachester people. Barry Forsyth passed away recently after a courageous but exhausting battle with Motor Neurone Disease. We include here an image of the order of service for Barry's funeral and a tribute from his family posted on Facebook.

Barry and Mandy came to Peachester in the late 1970s and Mandy was appointed as assistant teacher at Peachester School. They have been part of our community and involved in many local organisations ever since, until they moved to Brisbane for Barry's health needs a few years ago. Barry will be greatly missed, and we send our deepest sympathy to Mandy and the Forsyth family.



Thomas Forsyth is with Chantelle Forsyth and 3 others.  
22 hrs · 🌐

It is with a heavy heart that Mum, Stew and I announce the passing of Barry Forsyth.

After a long courageous battle with MND, Barry passed away peacefully on 17th February 2022, surrounded by family. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather who filled our lives with love and joy. Although you will be greatly missed by all who knew you, we take some comfort in the fact that you are finally free. We will love you always.

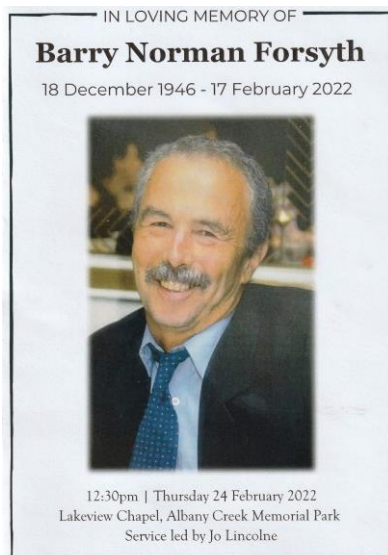
A memorial service will be held for Dad on 24th February 2022 at the Albany Creek Memorial Park at 12:30pm in the Lakeview Chapel, with a wake to follow in the Green Room at Eatons Hill Hotel. If you wish to pay your respects, please find below the link to the funeral announcement with the details below. Please feel free to share with anyone you think would like to attend.

<https://www.compassionatefunerals.com.au/.../barry-forsyth/>

If you cannot attend in person, the memorial service will also be live streamed here

<https://view.neroomstreaming.com/authorise.php...>

Love from Mandy, Stew and Tom



## FEATURING THE ISLE OF MAN

Guest speaker at the March PHC meeting will be George Cowin, President of the Queensland Manx Society.

George's talk will cover the history of the Manx Society (established in 1914), together with the history, features and heritage of the Isle of Man, including a slide presentation. George is also keen to connect with anyone in the community who has Manx heritage, so feel free to invite any friends and neighbours who may be interested.

Below is the intriguing Manx coat of arms, map showing its location, and photographs of the striking landscape and the Island's famous TT motorcycle event.



## A MOMENT IN TIME

(Good for your next trivia event.) We know this date has passed, but did you appreciate all the magic properties it was supposed to have. There were many weddings and celebrations, and we hear that one couple managed to have their baby at 22.02.

### Did you know?

The date on Tuesday 22 February 2022 will be both a palindrome and an ambigram?

The date will read the same from left to right, from right to left AND upside down!

22022022



## FREDERIC WILLIAM HODGENS

### Peachester Head Teacher, 1921-1932

NOTE: We will be featuring local schools this year, leading up to the combined schools' reunion in October, initiated by Woodford Historical Society. We are helping by gathering photos and stories from Crohamhurst, Commissioner's Flat and Peachester Schools. Thanks to Joy Hodgens for this story about her father-in-law who spent many years teaching at both Peachester and Beerwah Schools. Photos from PHC collection: Mr Hodgens (centre) with students beside the old Peachester Hall in about 1922, and driving to school.

Fred Hodgens was fourteen years old when he became his father's pupil teacher. Thomas Hodgens was Head Teacher of the Tewantin School. After five years of training Fred was classified and took up his first school at Blyth's Creek near Roma. From there he became an Itinerant teacher in Western Queensland. He enlisted for the First World War in 1915 from Charleville. After the War Fred taught in London for a short while before returning to Queensland. His first appointment was to Taringa State School until his doctor advised him to move to the country. Fred had been mustard gassed during the war, the effects lasting him a lifetime. Fred bought a Peachester block adjacent to his brother Syd, and was transferred to Peachester School in January 1921.

Fred Hodgens lived on the farm and rode his horse or drove in the sulky to school each day. In wet weather he stayed with Bill and Kate Shuttlewood in a big Queensland style house near the school on Commissioner's Flat Road. He often had lunch with the Shuttlewoods and this is when his pupils got up to mischief. They soon learned that when Mr. Hodgens said not to climb trees he meant it. They found out too that he frequently carried a cane up his sleeve in the playground. One such pupil, Brent Otto, remembered Mr. Hodgens as firm but fair.

Mr. Hodgens dressed meticulously for school in the bush in the 1920s. He always wore a coat, waistcoat and tie, starched detachable collar, saddle twist trousers, braces, hat and well-polished riding boots. One Inspector was known to criticize his drill technique, which offended Fred no end, for being a Lieutenant in the War, he'd had many years of drill practice.

Maria Hodgens, Fred's mother, who had teaching experience, frequently came down with him and taught the little ones under the school. It would have been primitive and uncomfortable on the red dirt floor. In those days teachers had to average 45 pupils to qualify for an assistant teacher. In the time he taught at Peachester, Fred had two assistants, Delia Foley for two years and Mary Tracey for twelve months.

In 1931 Fred Hodgens married Grace Simpson, a Beerwah girl, who was teaching at Norwood at the time. He took long service leave for six months and worked on the farm. Fred was then transferred to the Downs but asked for a local transfer as Grace was expecting their first child. He was duly transferred to Beerwah as Head Teacher where he taught until his retirement in 1955.



## FORESTRY HISTORY

Warren Raddatz sent this information on a book which he feels some *Gazette* readers will find interesting. Warren has ordered a copy for the PHC library, but if you would like a copy of your own, see order details below.

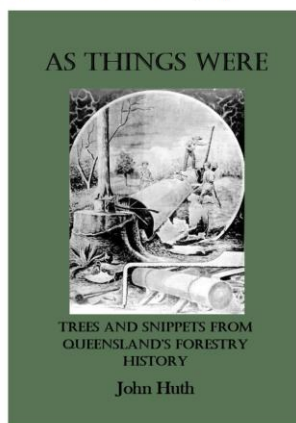
### AS THINGS WERE

John Huth

This 221-page book covers early tree plantings and some forestry themes from the Queensland scene.

The first part is on historical tree plantings: Queensland Acclimatisation Society, Arbor Day, State School forestry plots, Save the Tree Campaign and Main Roads plantings and a chapter on big trees.

In the second part I have presented some historical accounts on the Yarraman and Maryborough forestry districts and information on forestry camps.



The activities of Forestry during World War Two (overseas and at home) and after the war (displaced people) are detailed.

As a tribute to those who served and died in war there is a chapter on memorials to the fallen and an incomplete list of men from Forestry who served in World Wars One and Two.

The etymology of some logging areas, details of forestry places on the Queensland Heritage Register and the use of crown hammers are also included.

*This book is not written along a time line per se. Rather, the snippets are plucked from John's extensive collection. The coverage of topics is broad and contextual. The reader is exposed to tree plantings from school plots to memorial groves to commercial scale plantations. The tough breed of men and women who made it happen, and the basic living conditions of the early days are highlighted by an impressive array of images. Indeed, an appreciation of the growth and spatial coverage of forestry and associated operational components are enhanced by the use throughout of an eclectic treasury of photos and prints garnered from a myriad of sources. Gary Bacon.*

The book will be available in mid-March 2022

To order a copy please email: [johnhuth55@gmail.com.au](mailto:johnhuth55@gmail.com.au) or phone 0428 735 132

Cost is \$25 or \$35 including postage.

## MORE THAN A PRETTY FACE

(Eileen Strong contributed this item about multi-skilled young lady teachers. How would this job description be received today?)

Beneath that sweet exterior, the bush school teacher of the 1880s was more than just a pretty face! She had to be able to:

- ❖ Set a broken leg in a crisis
- ❖ Patch the shingles on the school roof
- ❖ Cook lunch on an open fire
- ❖ Wallpaper the residence with newspapers to keep out the winter wind and snakes
- ❖ Stay fresh all day from a weekly swim in the dam
- ❖ Teach a class of children aged five to fifteen
- ❖ Ride a horse four miles to school
- ❖ Fight off swaggies who attempted to camp in the school house
- ❖ Keep the school property free of goats and cattle
- ❖ Study at night for her end-of-year examinations.

ALL THIS, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ROLL 1913**

Continuing our series from the 1913 Electoral Roll, which provides a fascinating insight into how Glasshouse Country and surrounding areas have changed in the last 100+ yrs.

**Division:** Lilley, **Subdivision:** Nambour

**Place of Living: Caloundra**

CANNON	Caroline B M M	F	home duties
CANNON	Richard James	M	boardinghouse-keeper
COSTELLO	Bridget	F	school teacher
DICKINSON	Annie	F	home duties
DINGLE	Edward Frank	M	selector
DINGLE	Emily Catherine	F	home duties
EDLUNDH	Carl Bernhard W	M	light keeper
EDLUNDH	Cecil Constance D	F	home duties
EDLUNDH	Doratheia	M	home duties
EDLUNDH	Florence Hilda D	F	assistant telegraphist
EDLUNDH	Lily Margaret	F	home duties
HAWKINS	Elizabeth	F	home duties
HAWKINS	George	M	labourer
HAWKINS	George William	M	labourer
KELLY	Patrick	F	ganger
KING	Allan	M	boarding-house keeper
KING	May Rose	F	home duties
KING	William Francis	M	coach proprietor
MALTMAN	James Robert	M	teamster
MALTMAN	Thirza Mildred	F	home duties
MARLEY	Florence	F	home duties
OXENHAM	Anselm	M	farmer
OXENHAM	Ellen	F	home duties
PLUMMER	John Arthur	M	oysterman
REMINGTON	Annie	F	home duties
REMINGTON	Richard Proctor	M	farmer
ROOKE	Annie Julia	F	home duties
ROOKE	David	M	licensed victualler
ROOKE	Francis John A	M	contractor
ROOKE	Ruby May	F	home duties
SUTTON	John Francis C	M	storekeeper
SUTTON	May	F	home duties
SUTTON	Percy	M	farmer
THOMAS	Amy Augusta	F	home duties
TRIPCONY	Agnes Buchanan	F	home duties
TRIPCONY	Catherine Eva	F	home duties

**Place of Living: Meridan**

LAXTON	Mary Jane	F	home duties
LAXTON	Thomas	M	teamster
WESTAWAY	William Albert	M	grazier
WESTAWAY	Williamena Lily M	F	home duties

**Place of Living: Meridan Plains**

LAXTON	Mary Ellen	F	home duties
LAXTON	William Charles	M	labourer
WESTAWAY	Ann Jane	F	home duties
WESTAWAY	Edmund John	M	butcher
WESTAWAY	Etta Helen Lavinia	F	home duties
WESTAWAY	Gilbert Percy	M	grazier
WESTAWAY	Hannah	F	home duties
WESTAWAY	Henrietta Johanna	F	home duties
WESTAWAY	Henry Arthur	M	teamster
WESTAWAY	John Albert	M	stockman
WESTAWAY	Mary Isabella	F	home duties
WESTAWAY	Richard	M	grazier
WESTAWAY	Richard Henry	M	teamster
WESTAWAY	William Henry	M	grazier

**Place of Living: Bribie Island**

GODWIN	Mary Ann	F	home duties
GOSLING	Arthur John	M	labourer
GOSLING	Emma	F	home duties
GOSLING	George	M	lighthouse keeper
GOSLING	Maria	F	home duties
MALONEY	Thomas jnr	M	fish preserver
MALONEY	Thomas	M	fish preserver
SHAW	Charles	M	labourer

**COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL ROLL 1913**

**Division:** Lilley, **Subdivisions:** Caboolture (+ Woodford)

**Place of Living:** Glass Mountains, Glass House Mountains

BURGESS	Clementina	F	home duties
BURGESS	William Smith	M	farmer
CLARK	Mitchell	M	labourer
COWAN	Charles Henry	M	timber getter
GOWEN	Harold Victor	M	fruitgrower
HARE	Amanda	F	gatekeeper
HARE	William John	M	ganger
JARVIS	Caroline Ellen	F	home duties
JARVIS	George	M	farmer
JARVIS	George Alfred	M	farmer
JARVIS	Lyll Easton	M	orchardist
JARVIS	Martha	F	home duties
JARVIS	Sarah	F	home duties
JOHNSTON	John William	M	labourer
KING	Albert Charles	M	timbergetter
KING	Alexander	M	farmer
KING	Ambrose Ernest	M	timbergetter
KING	Amy	F	home duties
KING	Archibald Edward	M	farmer
KING	Clara Bell	F	home duties
LISTER	Leslie Gordon J	M	farmer
MURTON	Edward	M	farmer
O'ROURKE	Peter	M	timbergetter
REED	Elizabeth Parry	F	home duties
REED	William Arthur	M	labourer
ROBERTS	Harriet Farrell	F	home duties
ROBERTS	Hugh	M	selector
ROBERTS	Hughie	M	splitter
ROBERTS	Thomas	M	splitter
SHACKLETON	Martha	F	home duties
WALKER	Stephen	M	lengthsman

**Place of Living: Beerburum**

HENNESSEY	James	M	farmer
HENNESSEY	Mary Francis	F	home duties
HENNESSEY	Patrick	M	farmer
JANSEN	George Lockie	M	station master
JANSEN	Mary	F	home duties
REILLY	Thomas	M	
TRIPCONY	Andrew Alexander	M	farmer
TRIPCONY	Thomas Martin	M	farmer
WEBB	Ann	F	home duties
WEBB	John Arthur	M	lengthsman

**Place of Living: Bribie View (later Donnybrook)**

BARDEN	Charles	M	oysterman
BARDEN	Jane Ann	F	home duties
DOWLING	Joseph	M	oysterman
HAMILTON	Elizabeth Henrietta D	F	home duties
HAMILTON	Robert Frederick D	M	farmer
HEXTON	James	M	carpenter
MATHEWS	Annie Maria	F	home duties
McMASTER	John Jr	M	oysterman
STORR	Arthur William	M	farmer
STORR	John	M	selector
WILD	Edith Laura	F	home duties
WILD	Hubert George N	M	labourer
WILSON	August	M	oysterman
WILSON	Margaret	M	home duties

**Place of Living: Cowie Banks, Bribie Passage**

TRIPCONY	Andrew Buchanan	M	oysterman
TRIPCONY	Margaret	F	home duties

(All spellings and information as published by QFHS)