

Peach Trees Gazette

Peachester History Committee Inc. Newsletter
Number 182 ~ August/September 2022

NEWS AND COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 5 AUGUST: Funeral for Ivan Wild at Peachester Hall from 10.30am. PHC is helping to cater for the lunch / wake, so members please bring a contribution if you can. (If you would like to help, we will be making sandwiches at the hall from 7.30am).

SUNDAY 7 AUGUST: Lunch meeting at the hall, from 11.00am. Guest speaker will be Mitch Gaynor, new owner and editor of the GCMN. We will also have a cake to celebrate Coral McAlister's 90th birthday. Lunch to share as usual.

THURSDAY 11 AUGUST: QCWA Centenary Scone Festival at Beerwah Hall, hosted by Beerwah and Peachester QCWA Branches. Tickets \$10.00, booking details page 6, or let Helen know if you would like to attend.

SUNDAY 28 AUGUST: Regular Heritage Centre open day, 10.00am to 2.00pm.

SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER: Father's Day Breakfast at the hall, from 8.00am. Barbecue breakfast with all the trimmings – all supplied, \$10 per person. Followed by meeting, and we will watch a video for those who can stay. (You can bring some morning tea if you feel that you may need more food.)

FRIDAY / SATURDAY 23 & 24 SEPTEMBER: Glasshouse Country Orchid Show at Beerwah Hall, see flyer page 6.

SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER: Regular Heritage Centre open day, 10.00am - 2.00pm.

Look forward to seeing those who can join us for any of these activities.

Helen (54949557), Jocelyn (54390895)

CAN YOU RELATE? (What about 75? 85?)



JOINT CELEBRATION AT PEACHESTER

Peachester QCWA Branch and Peachester History Committee joined forces on Saturday 18th June to commemorate the QCWA centenary and launch a new exhibition "A Woman's Work..." in the Peachester Heritage Centre.

It was wonderful to see many old friends and descendants of early CWA members, and the afternoon tea was rated well up to traditional Peachester standards!

The new exhibition in the Heritage Centre, supported by a SC Council Heritage Levy grant, pays tribute to the generations of women who have worked tirelessly – often unheralded – for their families and community. It also celebrates the role of the QCWA which has provided support and fellowship for country women over the last 100 years.

Thanks to all involved in setting up the new displays and helping organise the celebration on 18th June – terrific teamwork and a very successful outcome. The following photos are from the event, and also show highlights of the new exhibition.





SAD FAREWELLS

Annette Holland (née Simpson) passed away peacefully on 9th July, aged 84 years. Memorial Service at Gregson & Weight Chapel Caloundra, Monday 1st August, 11.00am. Annette is part of Peachester's history, great-grand-daughter of John Simpson, district pioneer, and long-term member of PHC. Our sincere condolences to Annette's husband Joe, son Noel Morrison, sister Joan Bruce and all her friends and relatives among our PHC membership.

Joe and Annette at the function to celebrate 130 years of Peachester Community Hall and opening of the Heritage Centre in Oct 2019.



Ivan Wild OAM passed away on 29th July, aged 91 years. Ivan was a foundation member of PHC, and actively involved in many of our projects. He is also a part of the district history, born in Beerburrum Hospital in 1930, son of Bert and Edith Wild (née Bishop), and has lived at "Stanley Hills" on Commissioner's Flat Road all his life. He has been involved in the dairy industry and many community organisations, making a huge contribution to the Peachester and Woodford districts. Condolences to his daughters Dianne, Vivienne, Karen and Sandra, the extended Wild family, and his many friends and relatives among our members. Ivan's funeral is at the Peachester Hall (as he requested) 10.30am, Friday 5th August.

A favourite photo of Ivan with his bullocky whip, taken by Ron Gillinder at the November 2013 PHC meeting.



When our country halls rocked around the clock and matches were made on the dance floor

By Dorothy Whittington 3 June 2022

(Alvon Raddatz brought this story to our attention, and we felt it would bring back memories for many of our readers. Alvon also confirmed that the photo below was taken in the Beerwah Hall.)



The Blue Hawaiian Band was always a hit.

The hall's old floorboards had been liberally sprinkled with Pop's, chairs placed around the walls, and the urn in the supper room turned on. The stage was set, the doors opened, and in swept the dancers – women in their best frocks and heels, men in crisp shirts and (very thin) ties, if not a suit. Soon they were gliding across the floor to a slow waltz and spreading the Pop's underfoot until the surface was like glass.

It was 60/40 dance time in country halls around the Sunshine Coast, from Conondale to Belli, Beerwah to Yandina but it was the fortnightly "Palmwoods Dance" that topped the bill. More than 400 dancers of all ages would come from miles around to evening three-step, jive and gypsy tap until the stroke of midnight when the band played "Now is the Hour" and, exhausted but satisfied, dancers set off home until next time. With supper included, it was good value for 50 cents.

Ivy and George Garrad (pictured below) and the Blue Hawaiians would repeat the program at Beerwah the following week, and often on Friday nights at the Yandina or Maleny School of Arts, the Nambour Friendly Society Hall, and halls at Belli and Pomona.



There was a ball in Conondale for the picnic races and in Kenilworth for the rodeo and even Buderim got in on the act.

In the days long before Tinder, the country dance was the place for courtship and young women were, literally, swept off their feet. It was a satisfying ritual. Young men, travelling in groups of

at least two or three, would enter the hall and survey the talent lining the hall's perimeter, before homing in and asking for the next dance as the band struck up.

For the girls, there was the fear of being the wallflower, sitting out the dance because they hadn't caught anyone's eye, but many a match made on the dance floor ended at the altar. Most popular was the progressive barn dance, swinging from sweaty palm to sweaty palm with a chance to meet everyone on the floor – dancers of all ages and abilities from the hills and the coast, farmers, surfies and townies.

The Blue Hawaiians formed in 1964 with Ivy Garrad at the piano and George as MC and in one form or another, their bands entertained the Coast for the next three decades. Dave Richardson was only 16 when he joined them playing steel guitar, Neil Jensen was on rhythm guitar and 14-year-old Ross Baldwin was drummer.

When Dave's number came up on the conscription ballot for National Service in 1967, and there was no longer a steel guitar, the band became Robbie Gee's Rhythm Ramblers, with George and Ivy's son Robbie on drums. Also joining the line-up in 1969 was Rex Eggmolesse and his brother Bryce, and Adrian Van Galen.

Rex, who quickly made a name for himself as a gifted and much-loved vocalist, also got the call-up, although soon after, Australia began withdrawing from Vietnam and Gough Whitlam's election in 1972, brought an end to the "lottery of death".

<p>umber, \$30. O.N.O. 22 Blackall Ter- ur. board, round-back. \$25. Apply E. A. Rd., Palmwoods. 6 ated kitchen suite. \$25. Phone N'br</p>	<p>BEERWAH Dance, Sat. Feb. 28, 8 p.m. Rhythm Ramblers band, supper. Admission 60c. Aid Golf Club. COLTS Badminton Club will be holding Social Nights in the Civic Hall on Wednesdays March 4 and 18. Beginners and outside club members will be most welcome.</p>
<p>IONED refrigera- g machines and choice of models choose from and ay in our Currie rooms. All items op value at bar- Inspect now at Sales and Ser- rie Street, Nam- 41 2078. ights-bar, 80 lb. attachments. Phone 2407 after 5 p.m. ord player, two very good condi- all after 6 p.m., et, Nambour. ng All Mash with minerals, \$60 livered, \$3.20 bag</p>	<p>DANCE TO ROBBIE GEES RHYTHM RAMBLERS AT BEERWAH THIS SATURDAY NIGHT February 28 AT PALMWOODS SATURDAY, MARCH 7</p> <p>DATE claimer: Maytime Ball, Friday, May 1. Obi Obi Q.C.W.A. DANCE, Eumundi, February 27, in aid of School of Arts. Good music, tasty supper. adults 60c, High School stud- ents 40c. DANCE at Audio, this Sat- urday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m.</p>

For many teenagers during the 1970s, the Palmwoods Dance was the main venue for a Saturday night out. As one regular reminisced: "Other than the dancing, I loved the singing along (terribly) to the songs we knew and liked, as poor Rex was doing it properly and tried to be heard. 'By the light of the silvery mooooo-oon' comes to mind."

As the mood warmed up, the dancing became more energetic. The Gypsy Tap turned from a gentle swing to a raucous run and slide from one end of the hall to the other as the band belted out "the cutest little baby face", "roll out the barrel" or "put another log on the fire." Conga lines formed to the tune of Running Bear and Little White Dove's love as big as the sky.

It was a long way from the Palmwoods dances of the 1930s when women wore elegant gowns and carried a dance card and the men wore gloves so they didn't mark their partner's gown – but the lights were always on. Supper was as popular as the dancing and was usually in at least two sittings. Exhausted

dancers would file into the supper room for tea and sangers and, most relished, cakes from the huge selection from the kitchens of the local ladies doing their bit for community fundraising. After supper, on a full belly, the music got faster for a jive as the band belted out Rock Around the Clock and Sloop John B. It was always the music of the generation and often the ones before as well.

"Dellah always got them going," Dave Richardson recalls. "We could change the beat for songs to be danced to." For many, matches were made to "Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da" from The Beatles, Olivia Newton John's Banks of the Ohio or The Seekers singing about a New World.

As hotels became more popular, younger people wandered off to other entertainments and by the 1990s, the dances were no longer a place for a date, raucous fun and children sleeping under the chairs. New vogue took over with only serious dancers taking the floor. It signalled the beginning of the end of the country dance.

This flashback is brought to you by Sunshine Coast journalist and history writer Dot Whittington, also the editor of Your Time Magazine. www.sunshinecoastnews.com.au

DATE CLAIMER: Sunday 30th October 2022 PEACHESTER CHURCH CENTENARY



Uniting Church 90th anniversary in December 2012

The Peachester Community Church (formerly the Methodist, then Uniting Church) was established in 1922. This 100-year-old building is a significant part of our heritage precinct, together with the Hall and Heritage Centre, and while still a consecrated church, it is now administered with the Community Hall.

This milestone is a reminder of the important role the church has played in the district over all those years. It is pleasing to report that while the Covid restrictions of the last two years have made it difficult to have services in such a small space, the church is back in action, with the Uniting and Anglican Churches holding ecumenical services on the last Sunday each month.

More details later, but we would love you to save this date, Sunday 30th October, and help celebrate the centenary.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You have probably seen this photo and story before, but they have a special link with the church, so they deserve to be included here.



ORANGE BLOSSOMS FERRIS – GRIGOR

The Peachester Methodist Church was the scene of a pretty and interesting wedding on Wednesday April 6th when Mr. Walter Ferris (eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Ferris, Poynton's Pocket) was united in the bonds of holy matrimony to Miss Ellen Fenwick Grigor (eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Grigor, Peachester) by the Rev. C. Finnemore of Landsborough.

The wedding was the first in the Church and the bride for some considerable time had been both organist and collector. Additional interest was attached to the function by the fact that the contracting parties were grandchildren of four of the oldest pioneering families of this part of the Blackall Range, viz., the Grigors, the Walkers, and the Simpson and Ferris families.

The church was decorated with a bell-shaped arch of asparagus ferns. The bride was given away by her father and looked charming and wore a gown of marriette over silk, beaded, and carried a floral bouquet. The bridal dress was made at McWhirters.

Miss Edna Janet Grigor, sister of the bride, attended as bridesmaid and wore a pretty dress of shell pink crepe de Chene and also carried a bouquet of flowers. Mr. Sydney Ferris, brother of the bridegroom, carried out the duties of best man. The bride's mother wore a frock of bois de rose crepe de Chene. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a travelling bag and the bride's present to the bridegroom a pocket wallet. The bridegroom's present to the bridesmaid was a wristlet watch.

The happy couple left the church amid showers of rice and confetti. Subsequently, the bride's parents entertained some

fifty or sixty guests to a sumptuous wedding breakfast in the Peachester Hall. The table was adorned by a large three-tiered wedding cake, the work of the bride's mother.

The happy couple were motored by the bridegroom's father to Beerwah, at which place was boarded the evening train en route to Coolangatta, where the honeymoon is to be spent. On leaving for the honeymoon Mrs. W. Ferris wore a frock of navy blue crepe de Chene, with hat to match.

A large number of friends and relations of the bride and bridegroom assembled at the hall in the evening for dancing, excellent music being supplied by Messrs Alan Ferris and W. D. Shuttlewood. The following toast-list was honoured at the wedding breakfast: "The King" and "The Duke and Duchess (in Brisbane)", the Rev. C. Finemore, chairman, supported by Mr. John Simpson, junr; "The Bride and Bridegroom" by the Chairman, responded to by the bridegroom; "The Parents of the Bride and Bridegroom", by Mr. W. Walker, responded to by Mr. Alan Ferris; "The Bridesmaid" proposed by the bridegroom, responded to by the best man; "The Lady Helpers" proposed by Mr. W. A. Grigor, responded to by the chairman.

Nambour Chronicle, 14 April 1927, page 4

HERITAGE CALENDAR 2023



It tells your stories, it's beautiful and it's back, and you've got to be in it to win it.

The Sunshine Coast Heritage Calendar Competition is on from July 15 to August 15.

Sunshine Coast Council is calling on residents to travel down memory lane and dig out their old snaps for the 2023 **'On the Move – how we travelled the Sunshine Coast'** calendar.

The calendar will capture the various ways we travelled the region – from the back of trucks, bicycles made for two, cars and skates to boats, trams and trains, perhaps even horse and cart or penny-farthing!

Winning entries will be included in the 2023 Heritage calendar, which goes on sale at libraries and customer contact centres in October.

Winners also receive a canvas print of their image, a VIP invitation to the calendar launch event as well as five calendars to share with family and friends.

Sunshine Coast Council Community Portfolio Councillor Rick Baberowski said the calendars provided a fascinating snapshot of our region through the lens of our locals and their visitors.

"This is a calendar with great community appeal and I love that every image opens up a personal moment or memory that we may never have otherwise seen," Cr Baberowski said.

"These photos were taken well before the days of Facebook or social media, and were unlikely to have been shared beyond

close family and friends, so it's a really special privilege to share these stories.

"This is the ninth year we've reached out to our community to encourage them to share their photos and I urge everyone to really have fun with it. ..."

Entry to the competition is free and submissions can be made at www.heritage.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au until 5pm, Monday, August 15.

Photographs must be owned by the entrant, who must also have authority to provide council with permission to publish the submitted photo, and be provided in either high resolution digital format, or an original suitable for scanning.

Online entry is preferred however if your photo needs to be scanned, council's Cultural Heritage Team at Caloundra, will be pleased to assist

Visit www.heritage.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au for details and conditions.

The Arts and Heritage Levy-funded calendar is produced annually to celebrate and remember our region's heritage.

NEWS FROM COUNCIL HERITAGE TEAM Calling Historians!

Immerse yourself in a project that will reveal, document and showcase Sunshine Coast's heritage.

Sunshine Coast Council is calling for historians to join their residency program to help fill in the missing gaps in the region's history. Historians will be able to access council's collections as part of their research.

To find out how to apply go to <https://heritage.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Programs-and-Events/Historian-in-Residence>

Submissions close 24 August 2022. The residency duration is equivalent to 3-months ending 13 June 2023. For enquiries contact: culturalheritage@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au or phone 5420 8600.

This program is supported by the Arts and Heritage Levy.

CHANGING TECHNOLOGY??

From Gary Bacon, for your enjoyment.



COMMUNITY EVENTS COMING UP

Several PHC members are involved in these events, and we feel sure other *Gazette* readers will be interested!

CWA **100**

Queensland Country Women's Association
Centenary • 1922-2022 • 100 years and beyond

It's our birthday, help us celebrate

QCWA SCONE FESTIVAL

The QCWA Beerwah and Peachester Branches invite you to their Scone Festival 2022.

There will of course be our famous tea and scones!

Why not come along and meet new friends and have a fun morning?

Thursday 11th August 2022

Beerwah Community Hall (next to Beerwah Library) 10am to noon

Scan here for event details

Tickets on sale via trybooking search QCWA Scone Festival
email: qcwabeerwah@gmail.com - tel: 0400 027591



GLASSHOUSE COUNTRY ORCHID SOCIETY'S

2022

Spring Orchid SPECTACULAR

Friday 23 September 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Saturday 24 September 8.30 am - 2.30 pm
Beerwah Community Hall
(entrance opposite Shopping Centre)

- ★ Show Orchids and Foliage
- ★ Plant Sales & Accessories
- ★ Refreshments
- ★ Expert Advice
- ★ Raffle

Admission:
\$4 Adults / Children Free

VOLUNTEERS AT WORK

Cleaning, conferring, creating... and exhausted!

