

## 9 - CAPALABA: The Rocks Crossing, Tingalpa Creek

<b>Street Address</b>	2 – 14 Old Cleveland Road
<b>GPS/RPD</b>	Part of L83 SL5432 and adjoining creek bed
<b>Place Type</b>	Built



RPS, 2012.



The Rocks Crossing, Capalaba (RPS, 2012).

<b>Condition</b>	Poor	<b>Integrity</b>	Good
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	Local Heritage Place		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No current listing		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	24/04/2017		

### Historical Context

Capalaba has long been an important site in the road link between Brisbane and Cleveland, especially as a crossing place over Tingalpa Creek. Along with Hilliards Creek, Tingalpa Creek was first surveyed by James Warner in 1841. The creek was on the path of early tracks between Cleveland and Cowper's Plains, and Warner noted a particular crossing, listed as a ford, located about 2.4 kilometers upstream from the current Capalaba Bridge. However, this ford is now under the Leslie Harrison Dam.[1]

In a later 1850 survey, Warner selected a ford just north of the current bridge as a suitable place for horses to cross Tingalpa Creek, and the crossing became known as 'The Rocks'. [2] The Rocks became the main crossing linking Cleveland and Brisbane. It was used by the weekly mail service, which became bi-weekly in 1867. The mail coach also transported passengers between Cleveland and Brisbane. [3] The Capalaba Hotel was established to the south-east of the crossing which helped to cement Capalaba as a stopping point.

The Rocks crossing proved to be treacherous and could only be negotiated at low tide. There were only two other crossings nearby, both of which proved to be troublesome: Coolwynpin Creek and the Fellmongers Bridge over Hilliards Creek at nearby Ormiston. [4] After lobbying by those who were forced to cross at The Rocks, the first bridge across Tingalpa Creek was built in 1874. Almost immediately, the old Capalaba Hotel was replaced with a newer building that operated as a post office and hotel. A changing station for horses used by the coach and mail services was set up in a paddock opposite the hotel. [5]

As early as 1882 locals began agitating for the construction of a new and direct route between Cleveland and Brisbane. Population growth during the depression prompted need for infrastructure where people could secure small farming lots for little money. [6] Local William Finucane completed an unofficial survey of a new road between Capalaba and Cleveland prior to 1890. This road was eventually built with 'Finucane Road' opened in the 1950s.

The original 1874 bridge over Tingalpa Creek was replaced in 1935. [7]

### Physical Description

Remnants of the 1874 bridge foundations can still be seen in the Creek at low tide. The roadway that accessed The Rocks and the 1874 bridge is believed to be evidenced by the "cobblestones" that are reportedly still visible. Restricted access is available from John Frederick's Park although the site is now heavily overgrown.

### Statement of Significance

The Rocks Crossing has historical and scientific significance as an important early creek crossing between Cleveland and Brisbane. The original stone causeway crossing (upgraded in 1874 with a bridge crossing) is an early example of creek crossing. The place has the potential to yield important information that contributes to a better understanding of early transport within the District and holds research value for its association with the settlement of Capalaba and Redlands.

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<b>Criteria A</b>	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.	
The creek crossing and bridge remnants are important in demonstrating the development of transport routes through Redlands. It was the main crossing between Cleveland and Brisbane, allowing for settlers to travel to and from the district from early times.		
<b>Criteria C</b>	The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history.	
The creek crossing demonstrates the way in which early travellers to the district crossed Tingalpa Creek which has the potential to yield a better understanding of the region's early history.		
<b>Primary Themes</b>		
5.0 Moving Goods, People and Information		5.01 Utilising human movement

### References

- [1] Michael Endicott, "The Origins of Old Cleveland Road," p. 69; Mary Howells, "Living on the Edge: Along Tingalpa Creek, A History of Upper Tingalpa, Capalaba and Thorneside," MA Thesis, The University of Queensland, 2001, 29
- [2] Howells, "Living on the Edge," 29.
- [3] Howells, "Capalaba: A Link to the Development of Redland Shire," RCC Library, p. 1.
- [4] Ibid.
- [5] Howells, "Living on the Edge," p. 37.
- [6] Ibid., p. 79.
- [7] Ibid.



*The Rocks Crossing, Capalaba (RPS, 2012).*



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