36 - MACLEAY ISLAND: Tim Shea's Wetland and Waterhole



Street Address	57-59 Charles Terrace, Macleay Island
GPS/RPD	L188 RP133301 and L14 RP127625
Place Type	Landscape





Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).

Tim Shea's Wetland, Macleay Island (AHS, 2017).

Condition	Good	Integrity	Good
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	11/01/2017		

Historical Context

Tim Shea's Wetland and Waterhole is a natural freshwater wetland located on Macleay Island. It is an ecologically important site that supports a diverse range of native flora and fauna. The wetland is named after Timothy Shea, an Irish convict from Cork. At the age of 19, Shea was convicted of larceny and sentenced to 7 years transportation. He arrived in Sydney in 1826, before being sent to the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement.[1] After being sent to Stradbroke Island as part of a timber getting crew, Shea escaped shortly after arrival and lived hidden on Macleay Island in these wetlands for 14 years, unaware he had been granted his ticket of leave in 1835.[2] Macleay Island was informally called Tim Shea's Island until renamed in 1840 by colonial surveyor Thomas Dixon.[3]

The Wetland has provided a source of freshwater on the Island for millennia. It served as the sole water source until the Island was connected to town water in the mid-twentieth century.

Physical Description

Tim Shea's Wetland is a natural freshwater reed swamp with a waterhole located at the centre of Macleay Island. It is approximately 7 hectares, featuring Melaleuca forest, Casuarina galuca (sheoak swamp) and mangroves. It is home to a number of species, include birds, echidna, bandicoot, pythons, goannas, and lizards. A formal walking track provides access across the site and associated signage outlines the importance of the place locally.

Statement of Significance

The waterhole is a locally significant place which embodies historical and aesthetic values. Since early settlement it has been significant in supporting permanent occupation of Macleay Island through provision of a permanent water supply. The waterhole was also the site of convict Tim Shea's camp following his escape from custody.

Criteria AThe place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.

The waterhole demonstrates the development of utilities that supported settlement in the Redlands by providing residents with freshwater. It also represents the history of convict settlement in Moreton Bay, though its association with escaped convict Timothy Shea.

Criteria E The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance.

The reserve is aesthetically important. A large reserve featuring Melaleuca forest, Casuarina galuca (sheoak swamp) and mangroves and home to a number of species, include birds, echidna, bandicoot, pythons, goannas, and lizards., the place positively contribute to the locality and to the Southern Moreton Bay and Islands.

Primary Themes				
2.0 Exploiting, Utilising and Transforming the Land	2.02 Exploiting natural resources			

36 - MACLEAY ISLAND: Tim Shea's Wetland and Waterhole



References

- [1] Queensland State Archives, Digital Image ID 23425.
- [2] Stuart Glover, "Islanding in Moreton Bay," <u>www.stuartglover.com.au/wp-content/uploads/.../2010-Islanding-in-Moreton-Bay.pdf</u>, p. 189.
- [3] "When Was It? Russell, Lamb, Macleay and Karragarra Islands," Redland City Council, 2009, p. 1; The Brisbane Courier, 27 March 1883, p. 3; The Brisbane Courier, 4 April 1885, p. 6



Tim Shea's Wetland, Macleay Island (AHS, 2017).