

Redland Libraries

Redlands Coast *Timelines*

Birkdale & Thorneside



Birkdale Road, looking west, Somersby Grange bottom right. Old Cleveland Road-Birkdale Road duplication in progress. HP1662

WARNING: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this document may contain the images and/or names of people who have passed away.

Information and images from resources held in **Local History** Collections, Redland City Council Libraries.

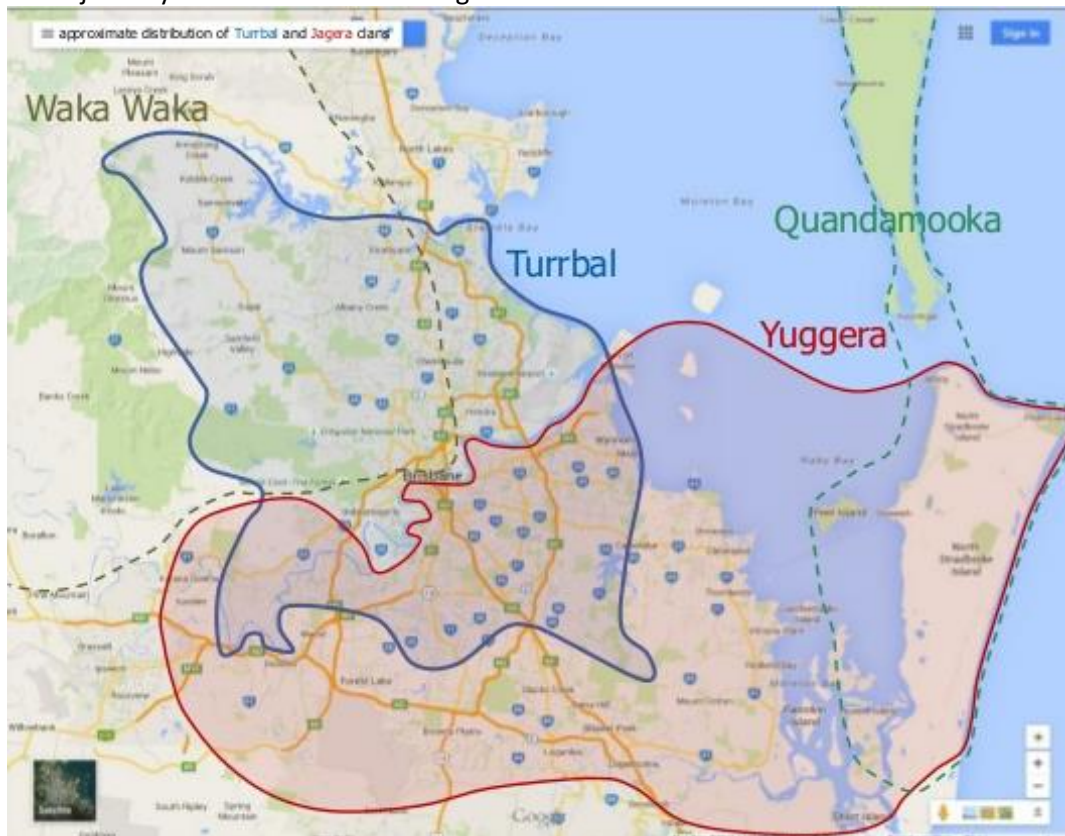
📄 [Local History website](#) ✉ localhistory@redland.qld.gov.au or ☎ 3829 8311

Updated September 2020

Quandamooka People have lived on and around this area for tens of thousands of years. Geological evidence dates occupation at a minimum of 21,000 years. Local people identify the Noonucal, Gorenpul and Nughi as the traditional owners of what is now known as Redlands Coast and its adjoining areas. Food supplies were plentiful. Fishing, hunting and gathering were part of the communal economy, with people collecting food according to their carrying capacity, and food shared according to families' needs. Dugong as well as fish such as mullet and tailor were caught with nets, sometimes aided by dolphins. Turtle and shellfish were also collected.

Oysters, mullet, crabs, cowrie, prawns, cockles, eugaries (pipis), mussels and turtle were common foods at different times of the year. Other foods hunted and collected at different times of the year included kangaroo, wallaby, goannas, flying foxes, birds, possum, and bandicoots, native fruits and berries, honey, and drinks made from flowers.

Bungwal/dingowa the rhizome of a fern, was pounded into flour, to make a type of damper or bread (later known as Johnny cakes) and once a year a journey was made to the Bunya Mountains to gather bunya nuts, which could also be used the same way, or eaten roasted or fresh. This journey would have been taken either on foot out through what is now Ipswich to the foot of the Toowoomba Range, then north to the Bunya Mountain. Quandamooka people belonged to the Yuggera language group so much of this journey would have been through their lands.



This journey would have been taken either on foot out through what is now Ipswich to the foot of the Toowoomba Range, then north to the Bunya Mountains.

Quandamooka people in what is now the Redlands Coast belonged to the Yuggera language group so much of this journey would have been through their own lands.

Source: https://www.slideshare.net/Ninti_One/when-river-people-culture-meets-commercialisation

It is very likely that local people made the journey by canoe following the Brisbane River, which would have taken them most of the way to the mountains. This would have had the added advantage that the canoes could be used to transport the large nuts home. A nut could weigh up to 10 kilograms.



Archeologists have found grind stones that have been dated back more than



Corroborees and other ceremonies were an integral part of community life, and huge regional celebrations were likely to have had ceremonial, spiritual, social, cultural and economic significance. Campsites and dwellings existed wherever there was fresh water nearby.

When the European settlers arrived in the 1820s, the Aboriginal people in the area we now call Redland City numbered more than 5,000. The new arrivals caused huge change to Quandamooka lifestyles and to the environment.

Details of the area's indigenous history are sketchy. Evidence is mainly in the form of place names. What physical evidence there was has all but disappeared over the years. However, fishing would have been prevalent in the rivers and sea, as well as hunting and food gathering in the wider region.

Campsites would have been found all around Quandamooka (Moreton Bay) wherever there was fresh water in creeks or waterholes. Creeks would have been important not just for drinking water, also for canoe travel further inland. In his book *Aboriginal campsites of greater Brisbane*, Dr Ray Kerkhove states that many areas which became reserves after European settlement, were actually made reserves because people were living there, and had been for countless years. However the settlers also needed fresh water, so for the most part, European settlements grew around those same areas.

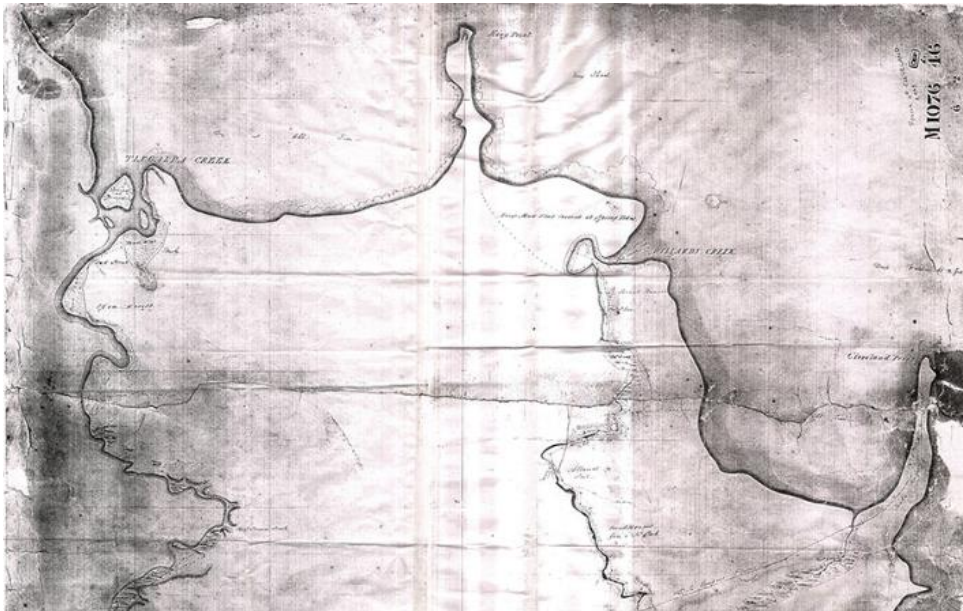
After settlement of the area, non-indigenous fishermen became active in the Bay. As well as fishing, the collection of coral and oyster shells for lime making occurred from the 1840s, well before the region was opened to settlers.

The activities of these lime-burners in particular explains the lack of middens since they were an easy source of shells.

1822

In March John Bingle entered Moreton Bay in search of a place, preferably with a river that might suit a new penal settlement. He didn't find any major rivers but he provided some of the earliest recorded descriptions of the coastline.

June: William Lawrence Edwardson was also sent to explore the north coast. Of the southern end of Moreton Bay, Edwardson reported: "From this Point to the South part of the Bay, a distance of about 30 miles by 22 miles, the whole is composed of Sand Ridges and Deep Holes interspersed with Mangrove Islands, and these again surrounded for miles by Mud flats and Oyster or Muscle [sic] Beds."



Part of a late 1830s-early 1840s Map M1076

1823

Timber-getters Pamphlett, Finnegan and Parsons were shipwrecked on Moreton Island and spent the next eight months travelling around Moreton Bay. The Noonucals at Pulan (Amity Point) looked after them for nearly six weeks. They housed, fed and advised the trio on canoe making, and saw them off some months later in the craft they'd made on the island. During their time on Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island), the three experienced bora gatherings, and ceremonial, celebratory and gladiatorial events.



The three then crossed the bay from Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island) and landed in Doobawah (Raby Bay) near a spot containing six or seven native huts and a fire; the inhabitants were fishing when the castaways came ashore.

They found a pathway which they used to make their way through the mangroves that thickly lined the shore.

Later that year, New South Wales Surveyor General John Oxley was sent by Governor Brisbane to assess a number of sites, including Moreton Bay, as potential convict settlements. By sheer coincidence, he met Pamphlett and Finnegan, and on their information he explored and named the Brisbane River. His party also explored the southern part of the Bay and reported that Point Lookout was on an island. As a result of his visit, the Moreton Bay penal settlement was set up at Redcliffe. It moved within months to what is now the Brisbane central business district.

1837

It was first suggested (by John Dunmore Lang) that Brisbane become a capital/seat of government for a new colony. However, the colony of Queensland did not come into being for another 22 years. Until then, Moreton Bay was part of New South Wales. That same year the first steamship entered Moreton Bay.

1839

From May no more convicts were sent to Moreton Bay and the non-essential ones were withdrawn. This marked the end of the Moreton Bay penal settlement, and moves began to open Moreton Bay to free settlers. Opening Moreton Bay accelerated the pressure on the indigenous people, and created further significant changes to the region.

Government surveyors Dixon, Warner and Stapylton began surveying Brisbane in preparation for the first land sales. Until this time, free settlers were not allowed within 50 miles of the Moreton Bay penal settlement (Brisbane), which is why there was no official European presence on the mainland parts of what is now the Redland Shire.



The Aboriginal track from Raby Bay to Ipswich, and large waterhole on Tingalpa Creek are marked on Dixon's map.

1840

Government surveyor Robert Dixon began surveying the islands. He and Surveyor Warner also surveyed the coast from Brisbane River to Innes (Coochiemudlo) Island. Dixon named Mt Cotton after Major Cotton and Coochiemudlo Island Innes Island after Lieutenant Innes of the 57th Regiment of Moreton Bay. He also named Macleay and Russell Islands, Victoria Point and Pt Halloran. Dixon also recommended to Surveyor General Sir Thomas Mitchell that Cleveland Point was suitable for a landing place. This was one of the key events which led to Cleveland Point being a serious contender as the Moreton Bay port.

1842

In May the Moreton Bay penal settlement was officially proclaimed closed and the area was open to free settlers. In July the first public sale of Brisbane land was held.

1856

Galvanised iron arrived in Brisbane for the first time and progressively replaced ironbark shingles as roofing.

1859

The separation of a new colony called Queensland was decided on 6 June, and formally put in place on 10 December. Previously it had been part of New South Wales. Since then, Separation Day has been celebrated on 10 December and Queensland Day has been celebrated on 6 June every year.

1865

Some of the district's earliest timber licences were issued in and around Capalaba, including to the Willards who built a thriving farm. Timber getting was an important industry, especially around the Albert, Logan and Tweed rivers. Timber was used for buildings and ship building. It was also one of the main exports to England.



Church Services were held at Willard's farm on Wednesday mornings by Reverend Dr Webster, who would then travel to conduct services at the Cleveland Courthouse on Wednesday afternoons.

James Willard and Daniel Colburn became major fund raisers for St Paul's Church of England in Cleveland, which opened for services in 1874.

1879

The Divisional Boards Act came into effect. The Tingalpa Divisional Board was formed, covering what is now the Redland Shire and surrounding areas to the Logan River. It met for the first time at Mr Heinemann's house at Mt Cotton. In 1902 the divisional boards were renamed shire councils.

1880

William Thorne was from Shebbear in Devon, UK and in 1880 he began buying land on Mooroondu Point. He lived in Mooroondu House near what is now the corner of Nora Street and Mooroondu Road.

Thorne was Chairman of the Tingalpa Divisional Board (shire council) c1885 and whilst chairman he was one of those responsible for formation of Cleveland Divisional Board (shire council) that year. William Thorne was a well-respected member of the community. He died in 1915.



William Thorne

BCC image -B120-33445



Redlands Museum

1883

Five acres was set aside for a proposed school at Birkdale. In 1906 this reserve was surrendered to the Cleveland Shire Council by the Department of Public Instruction.

1885

Cleveland Divisional Board (shire council) was formed, however Thorneside and Birkdale remained in Tingalpa Shire.

1886

A select committee was set up to look at the viability of a railway line between Brisbane and Cleveland. At the time, the Government was keen to open up land for settlement and to encourage agricultural pursuits. Many existing landowners, especially farmers, promoted the suitability of their district's rich soil for agriculture. The proposed route caused considerable debate, with Capalaba residents keen to see it pass through their area. They argued the coastal route was already well serviced by boats and was unsuited for residential development, unlike the Capalaba area. However, the coastal route won the day. Some people argued that this had a major effect on the development of the Capalaba area.

1887

James Baron, an employee of Gilbert Burnett in Wellington Point began living in Roger Street. It was during the mid to late 1880s that Gilbert Burnett moved from sugar milling to timber milling. James Baron was a key player in this industry as he was the engineer who developed the machinery of the mill and the tramway system which brought the timber from the wharf in the creek up to the mill. Baron was praised as being “possessed of a genius for invention and adaptation” by rural reporters of the day.

Baron was from Birkdale in Lancashire, and named his home *Birkdale House*. The district around the house later became known as Birkdale.

1889

The railway line to Cleveland via Wellington Point and Ormiston opened on 1 November. Trains travelled to Woolloongabba. After the Cleveland Railway Line opened the railway station between Lota and Birkdale became known as Thorne’s siding, later becoming the name of the suburb, Thorneside. The railway was frequently used as a promotional point in land sale advertisements.

THORNE ESTATE MOOROODU

SITUATED AT **BIRKDALE**
on the Cleveland Railway Line
16 Miles from BRISBANE

SALE ON THE GROUND
SATURDAY
12th OCTOBER
1912
AT 3 O'CLOCK

LOCAL SKETCH

MOOROODU HOUSE

WATERLOO

Tingialpa Creek

MOORETON BAY

60 SMALL FARMS
& 160 SEASIDE
TOWNSHIP BLOCKS

TERMS FOR FARMS
1/10th CASH,
Balance by equal
payments extending
over 9 YEARS
with interest at 5% per annum

1912 Land Sale poster

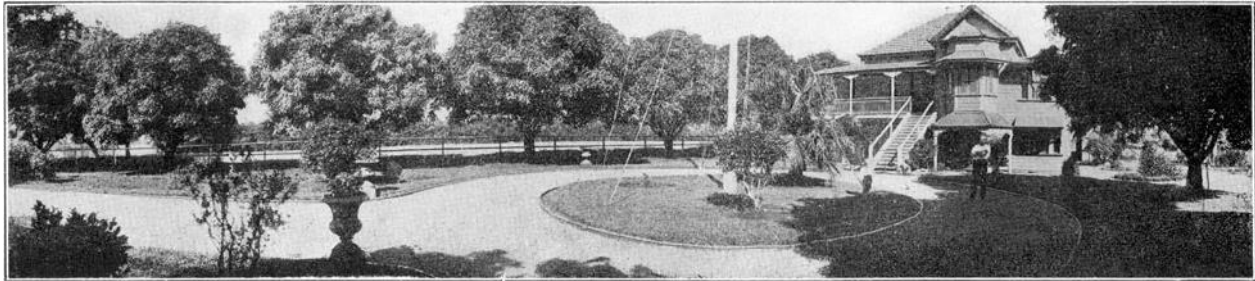
The railway line led to the development of urban areas along its length, as it became possible for commuters to live some distance from Brisbane. The railway line also meant the district's farmers were more easily able to transport their produce to the Brisbane markets. Other users included day trippers and others visiting the area for its fresh sea air.

1896

The Birkdale post office was established at the railway station.

Seven years after arriving in Brisbane in 1868, George Randall senior acquired premises in Stanley Street, South Brisbane, where he manufactured confectionery and jams. In 1881 he was appointed as Queensland's Emigration agent in England and he spent 21 years encouraging farmers to emigrate to Queensland, and shaping the colony's immigration policy.

In 1896 he bought an orchard at Birkdale, and there lived in his home *Somersby Grange*. He had relocated the home from Highgate Hill.

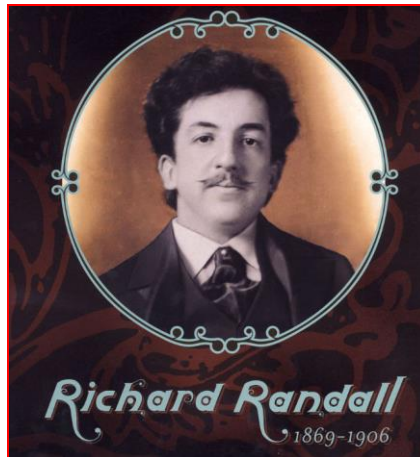


The Randall family home *Somersby Grange* on Birkdale Road, Birkdale, 1924.

HP4973

Randall's elder son Richard was a talented and prolific painter, particularly of landscapes but with some portraiture. He died from a cerebral tumour in 1906, and George supported his son's reputation by memorial publications, and the gift of his works to the City of South Brisbane as a public asset.

In 1904 younger son, George Randall junior married Harriet Willard, daughter of James and Margaret Willard. George junior was a Cleveland Shire Councillor from 1911 – 1916 including 2 years as Chairman during WWI and was President of the Wellington Point A H & I.



L-R:

- George Randall I
- Richard Randall
- George Randall II
- (George Randall III was also a councillor)



1897

By this stage, fruit had almost completely replaced sugar as the main crop in the district. The sugar industry was in decline partly because European countries were flooding the sugar market with sugar beet, and the colonial government had indicated that it planned to phase out South Sea Islander labour, which would have increased production costs.

1905

One of the district's earliest poultry farms operated in Birkdale at this time. Twenty or so years later, poultry began its evolution to become a major industry in the district.

1909

The Thorneside railway station, which was originally called Waterloo, had many metamorphoses over the years. It had closed in 1890, not long after opening, but then reopened in 1909, this time called Ransome's railway siding, used for transporting timber and firewood. In 1912 it moved over Tingalpa Creek to the western (Brisbane) side, remaining in use until 1931. There was no railway siding on the eastern side for the next 8 years.

1911

A number of motorists were fined for exceeding the Cleveland Shire Council's speed limit of 8 miles/hour. About a year later – in November 1912 – what was probably the Shire's first motor car accident occurred, at Birkdale.

1913

William Thorne, who had moved to the area in about 1880, subdivided a large parcel of land on Mooroodu Point.

1916

Birkdale School students in 1928.

HP0333

The Birkdale State School opened with 28 students on 27 November. For the first few years, classes were held in a marquee. The head teacher was Edward Paul Rohan. Until then, children in the area had to walk several miles to either Capalaba or Wellington Point School. In the very early days, the oldest Willard children attended Cleveland School in North Street.

1917

The former Waterloo Station, which closed in 1890 due to poor patronage, reopened in 1917 under its new name of Thorne's Siding. This name was eventually shortened to Thorneside, and became the name of the suburb.

1919

A bathing enclosure and causeway was built at Thorneside. Plans were afoot to add a dressing shed.

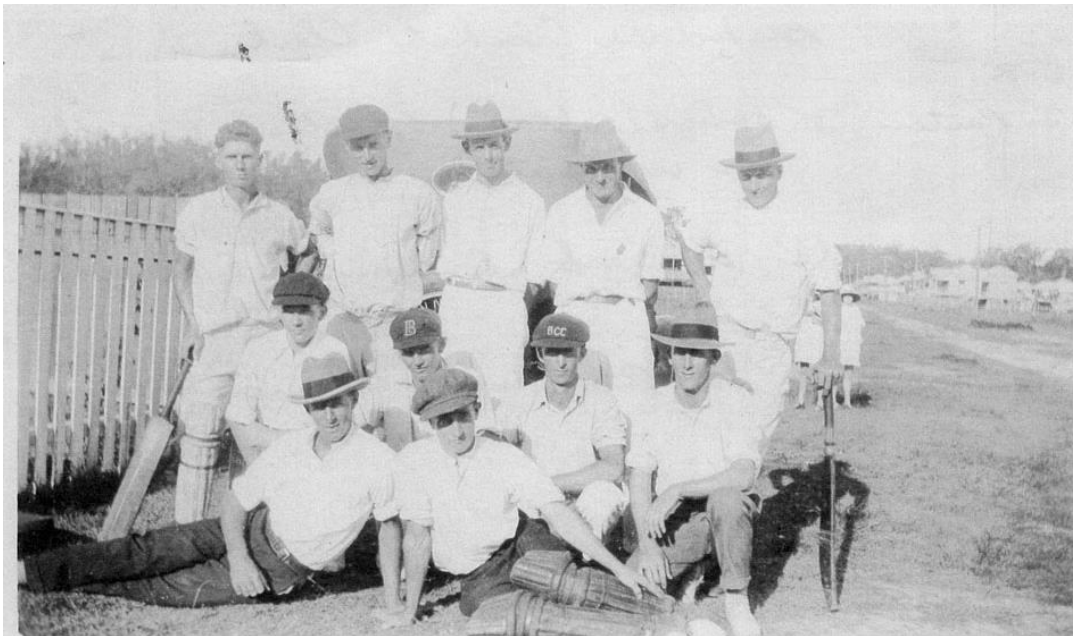
1920s

The local community constructed the Birkdale School of Arts Hall on Birkdale Road in the 1920's. It continues to be used as a public hall, operated by Redland City Council. It has been the venue for diverse activities including church services, a picture theatre in 1947 and a temporary school while the Birkdale Primary School was renovated. It has also been home for many organisations and clubs including a camp for the Australian Women's Land Army during the Second World War.



Image from Redland City Council local heritage register, 2014

1921



Birkdale Cricket Club c1920s. L – R rear: Roy Parton, David Spiers (Captain), Cyril Weller, Ernie Weller & William (Bill) Slater. Centre: Wally Woodgate, Herman Rieck, E Smith, George Randall. Front: Quentin Airey, Nat Randall (secretary). HP4349

1923

The Birkdale Methodist Church was built on the corner of Napier Street and Birkdale Road.

Later it was the Calvary Life Assemblies Church, and more recently, the home of the charity Christadelphinians of Birkdale.



1924

Cleveland Shire Councillor and Wellington Point AH&I President George Randall junior died of heart failure while driving. His widow Harriet died 2 years later, leaving their 6 children orphaned. She was the daughter of James and Margaret Willard, and her sister Margaret cared for the children as well as 2 other orphaned boys, living at Somersby Grange until her death in 1966.

In 1927, George Randall senior, by then a widower, erected a lych gate at Cleveland Cemetery, on Clark Street. A Plaque read:

"This lych gate has been erected by George Randall in memory of his wife Naomi and their two sons Richard John and George jnr. Also in grateful acknowledgment to Queensland and its immortal pioneers."

Council demolished the gate in 1998.

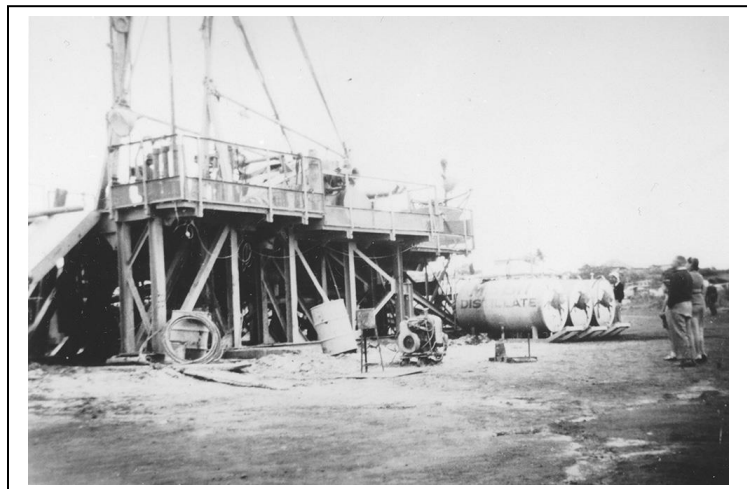


1928

The then-unformed Finucane Road was declared part of the main Cleveland-Capalaba Road by the Main Road Commission. At the time, travel was along Old Cleveland Road East through Birkdale, Wellington Point and Ormiston. Residents of these areas opposed having another route opened because of the possible detrimental effect it may have had on their businesses.

1930

A prospectus was issued for shares in Wellington Point Oil Wells Ltd, which planned to drill for oil on a line from Thorneside to Birkdale, and through to Ormiston. Many residents bought shares in the venture. Drilling began in 1931 and continued for the next few years. Although it never became commercially viable, the venture brought workers and money to the area. Around the same time, electricity arrived.



1933

In 1933, half of the Birkdale Anglican Church was built at Birkdale. The church was designed by prominent Brisbane architect Lange Powell. Before it was built, services were held often in the open air under a tree, and at other times in the School of Arts. This first half of St George's Anglican Church Birkdale was opened by Archbishop J W Wand in 1935. The second half would not be completed for another 34 years.



Dedication of [the first half] St George's Anglican Church, 10 March 1935.

HP0739

1935

Relief workers, in a similar scheme to the later work-for-the-dole program, were employed around the district, especially on the foreshores and reserves. Retaining walls, reclamation work and tree plantings were carried out. The relief workers also repaired roads and jetties.

1942

The Australian Women's Land Army established a camp at the Birkdale School of Arts hall. The girls worked at many local farms from Wellington Point to Cleveland. Other camps were located at Victoria Point and Redland Bay.

1944

By the end of 1944 the pressures of war were easing. Slit trenches in the district were filled in and blacking out removed. Trenches provided at the various parish halls in the district as air raid shelters had become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and committees of management notified they would be filled in and that blacking out of their halls could be removed. Particulars of a government funded subsidy scheme to assist with carrying out post-war work were forwarded to the two Shire Councils. However, food and clothing rationing continued for a considerable time.

The Thorneside Progress Association was formed. Initially it was concerned with the allocation of street lighting and the activities of the American soldiers, but later on it became a major force behind the building of a public hall in Thorneside.

A Uniting Church opened in John Street.

1949

Redland Shire came into being when the northern part of Tingalpa Shire and the whole of Cleveland Shire merged. This local government merger was one of several in south-east Queensland at the time. The suggestion had been around for a long time; in 1907 the Cleveland Shire Council had considered the advisability of amalgamating the two shires.



The first Redland Shire Council L-R:

Rear: M Bahr, R Hucker, A Langdon, C Toni, E Ellis (Shire Clerk).

Front: W Yarrow, N Price (Shire Chairman), J Strachan

The first chairman of the new Redland Shire Council was JHN (Norm) Price, formerly the chairman of the Cleveland Shire Council. The main issue for the new council was the same as before: the endless building and maintenance of the district's roads, parks, jetties and foreshores.

1950:

In 1950, Birkdale State School had 128 enrolments, the second highest in the Shire. By 1950 the Thorne estate in Thorneside had been subdivided and many families moved to the area. This contributed to the relatively large number of students at Birkdale State School.

1953

Thorneside Progress Association began fundraising for a community hall.

1954

In July a public meeting was held to discuss unequal representation by Council in the Shire's two divisions. People attending the meeting claimed their elected representatives all lived around the Cleveland area, and that as a result roads in Wellington Point, Birkdale and Thorneside were neglected in favour of those around Cleveland.

They called for the formation of a third division to take in Birkdale, Capalaba and Wellington Point as far as Hilliards Creek. They were advised to lobby Council and State Government on the matter. The new divisions (Capalaba / Birkdale / Wellington Point; Cleveland / Victoria Point /adjacent areas; and Redland Bay / Mt Cotton) were proclaimed on 13 January 1955.

1955

At the Shire's second naturalisation ceremony on 30 March, there were six candidates: Pietro Topatig from Wellington Point, Tullio Topatig from Birkdale, Mr and Mrs Albert Chandler of Raby Bay, A Schuurmans of Dunwich; and S Christina of Birkdale. That year the Birkdale - Wellington Point Progress Association was formed.

1958

Redland Shire Council met with real estate agent Mr Oates to consider "a novel scheme being put forward to convert land at present useless and lying waste at Thorneside into "a little Venice" by the introduction of canals and allotments with a water frontage, linked into a series of waterways and waterside allotments."

1959

Council refused an application for a mining lease on Birkdale dump.

1960

In September State Cabinet discussed closing the railway between Lota and Cleveland due to lack of patronage. A public meeting was held in protest. Some people favoured the idea because it was believed it would allow the buses to flourish. The rail service closed in November 1960. The closure met with mixed reactions, with the Birkdale - Wellington Point Progress Association describing it as "one of the greatest blows to progress this district has suffered."

1966

Birkdale State School still had one of the largest enrolments in the Shire. Popular Thorneside councillor Charles Toni died on 21 September.

1969

The second half of St George's Anglican Church was constructed. The first half had been opened in 1935, facing Thorne Road, and the hall had opened in 1963. The new half of the church included a new entry facing Victor Street.



St George's Anglican Church and Hall, 2003

Negotiations continued all through 1969 for a proposed canal development on former Woodgate farmland in Thorneside, to be called the Woodgate Park Estate. Plans also went before Council for the rezoning of Woodgate family land in Birkdale for development as a shopping centre. Council opened its new red brick building on the site of the old 1885 Shire Offices in Cleveland.

G. Blake began work on the Slumberland caravan park on Collingwood Road, Birkdale.

1970

Leslie Harrison Dam and Reservoir opened in 1968, and two years later householders in Birkdale were linked to the Shire's water supply, and the Rickertt Road Bridge over Tingalpa Creek was opened.

1971

A small shopping centre, Birkdale Gardens opened in February on the corner of Birkdale Road and Agnes Street, Birkdale

WOODGATE PARK
CORNER AGNES STREET AND MAIN ROAD BIRKDALE

SALAD SHOP & SAVE BOWL

Phone 86 6778

•• FRUIT
•• VEGETABLES
•• EGGS

MILK AND CANDY BAR
Soft Drinks — Milk Shakes — Lollies — Choc-lates — Cigarettes and School Stationery.

HOME-MADE CAKES AND PASTRIES
OPEN ALL WEEK-END
Freshly Baked Goodies

RED HOT SPECIAL

Freshly Dug POTATOES—	
20 lb. for	60c
Colours Cavendish BANANAS—	
3 lb. for	20c
Firm Local TOMATOES—	
2 lb. for	24c
Choice Red Eating APPLES—	
dozen	30c
Large Jonathan APPLES—	
10 for	40c
Choice String BEANS—	
10c lb.	
Majestic Strawberry RUNNERS—	
batch of 30	60c

•• SMALLGOODS
•• PLANTS
Recommended Shrub for the Week:
ACACIA FIMBRIATA (Brisbane Wattle)
•• FERTILIZERS

Stradbroke Residents:
Phone orders prepared to suit. Please phone on THURSDAY for Friday's Ferry. Phone 86-6778

YUM! YUM! YUM!
TRY OUR ROTISSERIE CHICKEN

PRODUCE SELECTED FROM LOCAL REDLANDS FARMERS!

Redlands News & Star—Wednesday, March 11, 1970

Redlands News & Star Wednesday, March 11, 1970

Many subdivisions were approved, including Birkdale Heights Estate. The approval was given to develop canal estates in the area.

The William Taylor Sports Ground opened in Thorneside. Named after Lions Club Member and Charter President, and Redland Shire councillor Bill Taylor in December 1971. Taylor retired to the Redlands in 1958 and was a councillor from Oct 1964 until his death in November 1970. Among his many accomplishments he served in the 2nd 26th Battalion in World War II and was a POW at Changi. He was involved with many groups and organizations, including scouts, Birkdale School of Arts, Birkdale Progress Association etc. It is now known as the William Taylor Memorial Park.

1972

The Birkdale kindergarten in Napier Street opened for the first time.

1973

Discussions were held about the possibility of an electric railway line between Brisbane and Cleveland.

1976

Birkdale State School, with 391 enrolments, was the fifth biggest school in the Shire.

1977

Council conducted a preliminary feasibility study into reopening the railway between Lota and Cleveland, and the following year the State Government completed a full feasibility study into reopening the railway between Lota and Cleveland.

1980

Work began on the Lota-Thorneside rail link and in 1982, on 25 September the first section of the new rail service, between Lota and Thorneside, was officially opened. A return ticket to Central cost \$1.10 and a weekly ticket cost \$7.10. The line was electrified by October the following year.

1982

In February about 200 residents of Birkdale and Thorneside attended a public meeting to protest about a proposal to build a canal development with a 600-boat marina and two 16-storey residential buildings on Birkdale Road.

The proposal was lodged by Aquatic Paradise Pty Ltd. The site had been approved for a canal development in 1971. Although the overall development was approved by Council, the 16-storey towers were not. Birkdale resident Jack Pease lodged an appeal against Council's decision to grant the conditional approval.

The Birkdale South State School opened.

The Shire's population was about 52,000. Birkdale had a population of 5,655 and Thorneside 1,825.

1985



Image: Real Commercial, 2007

Birkdale Gardens shopping centre opened in October. The new shopping centre was prompted by the Aquatic Paradise canal development which was under way, and it replaced the 1971 shops.

Birkdale Fair opened in the early 1990s, with extensions built in 2014

The Redlands Junior Rugby Union Club opened its new clubhouse in Randall Park. Games had previously been played at Mooroondu Road Thorneside. In 1988 it was renamed Judy Holt Park after Redland Shire Councillor Judy Holt, who had been instrumental in opening the park up as a venue for the Redlands Rugby Union club. Cr Holt's son Nigel Holt played rugby union for Queensland and Australia.



Shire Chairman Merv Genrich and Cr Judy Holt watch as work begins on construction of the Rugby Union clubhouse in February 1985. Club members raised funds by 'selling' bricks. HP1361 and Qimagery



By August the railway overpass was under construction on the corner of Birkdale and Rickertt Roads.



Railway overpass under construction for the Thorneside-Wellington Point railway extension, 1985.

HP1768

1986



On 26 July 1986 the Thorneside-Wellington Point rail link was opened. Tickets to Brisbane City Central cost \$1.80 and a weekly ticket cost \$12.

This was the first train on extended line

HP1002



Aerial image of the 1986 railway overpass on Birkdale Road.

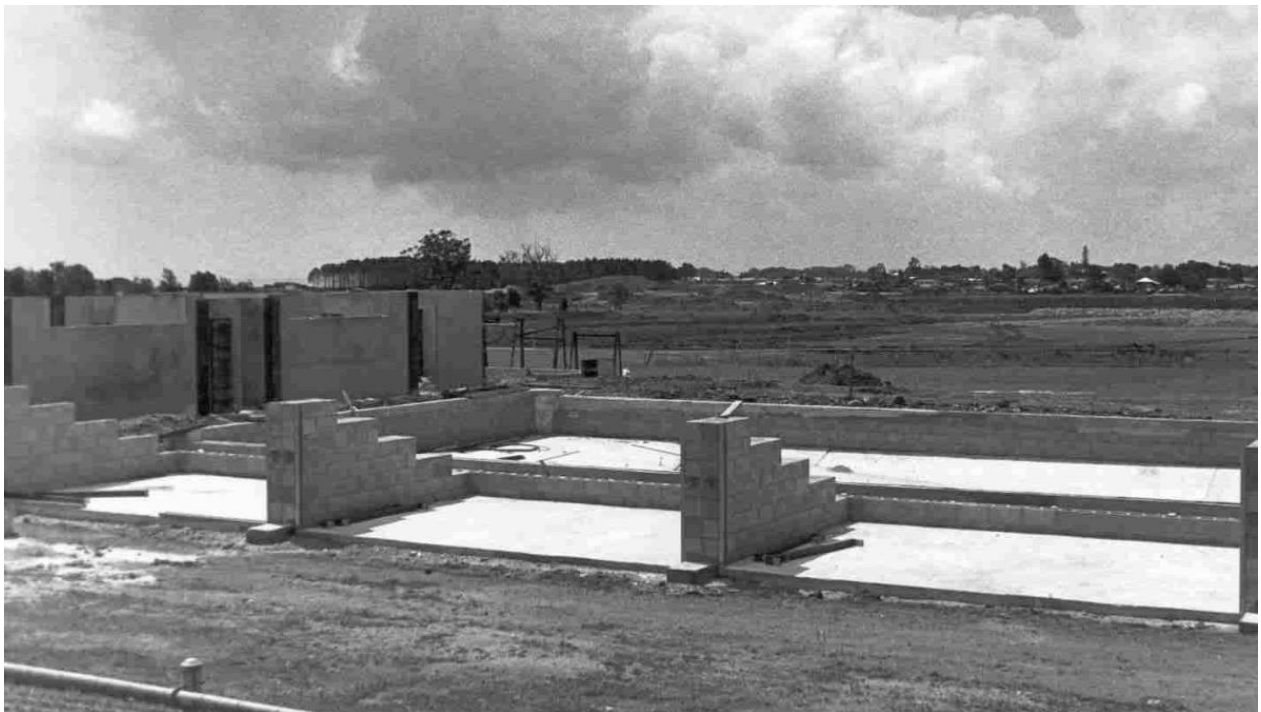
HP1776

Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen officially opened the Aquatic Paradise canal development in Birkdale in September.



Early earthworks for the Aquatic Paradise canal estate, on former Woodgate farmland 1985

HP1434



Construction of the Birkdale State School pool, early 1980s. Earthworks for the development of Aquatic Paradise in the background.

HP1551

1989

Plans were afoot to develop a canal estate on Birkdale Rd between Thomas Street and Coinda Street including the site of the Wellington Point caravan park (Sovereign Waters).

1992

The Shire's population reached 80,695, up 37% from the 1986 Census. All suburbs in the Redlands recorded a population growth, with Victoria Pt showing the highest growth of 65%. The most heavily populated suburbs were Alexandra Hills (14,548), Capalaba (14,153), Cleveland (9270), Birkdale (8751), Victoria Pt (6041), Thornlands (5955), Wellington Pt (5056), Redland Bay (4503), Thorneside (2834), Ormiston (2716) and Sheldon/Mt Cotton (2617).

The Baptist Church, Jones Road, Birkdale, was opened.

1993

Thorneside residents fought moves for more unit developments in their suburb. More than 40 per cent of Thorneside's population was expected to live in units.

Work began on a \$7 million supermarket complex at Birkdale.

1994

The Thorneside post office closed in June.

1995

Mary McKillop Catholic Church opened in Hardy Road, Birkdale.

Australia's first koala speed zones were trialled in parts of Cleveland, Ormiston, Birkdale, Capalaba and Mt Cotton.

1997

Mary McKillop School opened.

1998

Redland Shire Council gave in principle agreement to a major 140 lot Birkdale/Wellington Point subdivision featuring a large lake as its centrepiece. The development was on the site of the former caravan park. The site had been proposed for a canal development previously.

1999

It was announced that the controversial koala speed zones introduced in 1995 had failed to reduce the number of koalas killed on Redland Shire roads.

A new study was announced to examine whether run-off from roads was poisoning Tingalpa Creek with substances such as heavy metals and hydrocarbons.

Birkdale swimmer Scott Shewan won a gold medal in the 50-metre butterfly at the Special Olympics World Games in Raleigh in the United States.

Council approved a tavern opposite the Birkdale Primary School and close to a church.

2000

Redland residents swimming in Moreton Bay risked severe skin rashes and allergies from an algal bloom close to local beaches.

Twenty-six local schools in the Redland Shire designed Olympic banners for the Olympic Torch route. All banners displayed the names of the schools and an inspirational message to the torchbearers, escort runners and Olympic athletes. The Olympic torch travelled through the Redlands on 13 June.

2002

Birkdale diver Steven Barnett won a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. Swimmer Ashley Callus won gold.

2003

The Southern Moreton Bay Tourist Drive was launched. The drive was marked with brown signs with dugongs on them

2008

On 15 March 2008, Redland was granted City status

2015

In 2015 Willards Farm was purchased by Redland City Council, who endeavoured to have it heritage listed. The application was unsuccessful. At the time, the farm was within Division 10, and Cr Paul Bishop had been a key player in the acquisition of the farm. However before the 2016 election the divisional boundary was realigned, resulting in Willard's Farm then being in Division 9.

In 2019 Council acquired the surrounding Commonwealth Land which had originally been a part of the farm, until being resumed during WWII for the construction of a key Radio Receiving Station on behalf of the US Military.

2019

The Thorneside Uniting Church in John Street closed its doors after 75 years of service.

In 2019, ahead of 2020 Local Government elections, the Electoral Commission of Queensland again re-assessed the electoral division boundaries, reporting that:

“Suggestions were invited from 27 April 2019 to 5pm 20 May 2019. Seventeen submissions were received and are available to view at Appendix C. A common theme to emerge from the suggestions was the desire for the Birkdale Commonwealth lands and Howeston Golf Course to be returned to Division 10, where it was located prior to the 2015 boundary review. The Change Commission agreed with the suggestions and reinstated Jones Road as the boundary between Division 10 and its neighbouring divisions. As a result, this also addressed those suggestions requesting Creek Road be contained in Division 10”.

This meant that Willard's Farm was once again in Division 10, with Cr Paul Bishop being returned in the March 28 2020 election.

In September 2019 longtime resident of the original Willard's estate at Birkdale, Isabella Alcock aka Ann Porter, and known to many as the goat lady died at age 84.

Ms Alcock had lived as a squatter on the Commonwealth land for 61 years. She cared for cattle, sheep and dairy cows in large paddocks but was known for the goats that lived near the road.

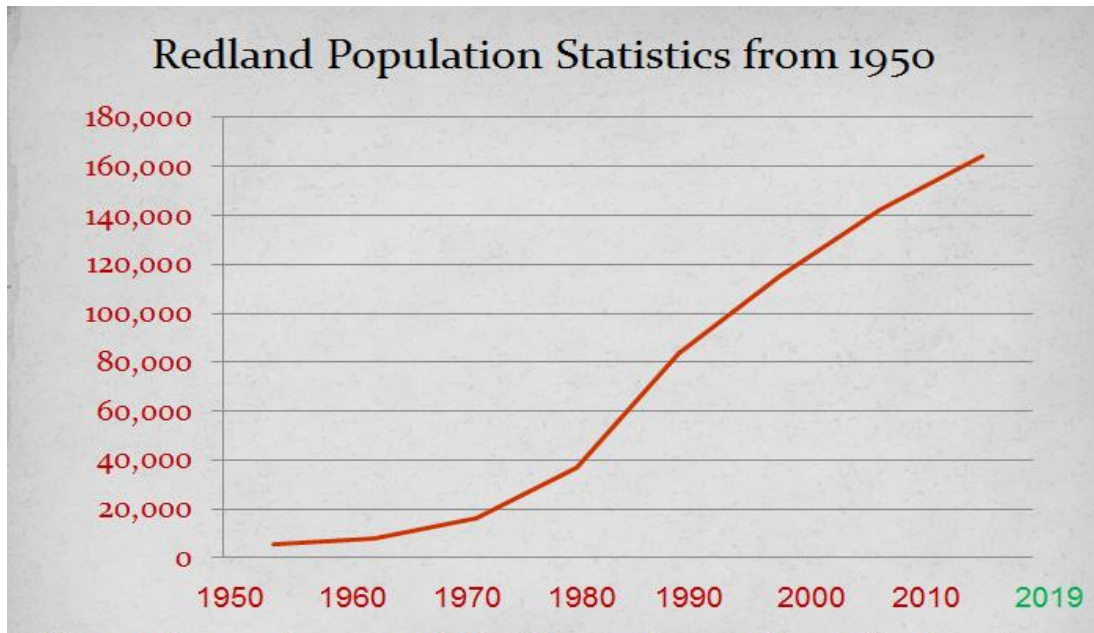


Photographs



Aquatic Paradise, 1998

Up until 1970, growth in the Redlands had been slow and steady, and then it boomed. There had been no new schools opened since 1916, until Cleveland High School opened 44 years later in 1962. The next primary school, Alexandra Hills, didn't open until 1975. That was the start of a boom, during which time 26 new schools have opened, giving us a total of 37 schools.



So what had happened to trigger this rapid growth?

- We had a permanent water supply after the Leslie Harrison Dam was built (1968).
- Sewerage resolved the many drainage problems that had existed throughout the Shire, and which had been preventing high-density development (1976).
- A four-lane road was built between Capalaba and Brisbane (1982) then extended to Cleveland (1988) making a daily commute much faster, and the Redlands became an attractive prospect for those wishing to live outside of the city, while still being able to work there.
- The trains returned (1986) which added another option for commuters.
- The Commonwealth Games (1982) and Expo 88 (1988) brought many visitors to the area along the new fast roads, and many stayed or came back later to live in the Redlands.
- As farmland was developed, the infrastructure that had existed to ensure produce reached markets in prime condition had started to disintegrate; this in turn made it harder for the remaining farms to sustain their viability, and so the temptation to sell to developers became harder for farmers to resist as the demand for housing increased.

Thorneside – Birkdale 2019



Compared to 20 years earlier...

Thorneside – Birkdale – 1998



And 25 years before that ...

Thorneside – Birkdale 1973





Guy family, Birkdale beach and jetty, 1930s

HP0448



Byng Road, Cashew Court and Pecan Court, Birkdale Road, 1998

HP1661

Sources:

- Mary Howells: *Places of the Redlands*
- Tracy Ryan: *Redlands master timeline 1770 – 2010*
- Cleveland Shire Council: Minutes and Rates records
- Tingalpa Shire Council: Minutes and Rates records
- Redland Shire Council: Minutes and Rates records
- Rural Press: Redland Times and Bayside Bulletin
- Redland Libraries: Local History Collections including Oral Histories and Images
- Queensland State Library
- Queensland State Archives
- National Library of Australia: Trove
- National Archives of Australia
- Queensland Births, Deaths & Marriages
- Historical Title Deeds
- Post Office directories
- Ancestry Library edition
- Redland City Council Cemeteries Register
- Queensland Heritage Register
- Queensland Government historical maps and aerial imagery
- Other sources as noted in document

The document has been prepared for general reading rather than as an academic document. For that reason, referencing has not been included in it.

However, all research has been thoroughly and diligently undertaken to academic standards by using primary sources as much as possible; existing academic papers, theses, and books; and by cross-checking information across more than one source. Personal recollections from memoirs or Oral Histories have all been cross-checked against historical records unless otherwise stated.

Detailed references are available on request.

Names and places, and language:

Names, places and language have been included as recorded in their original context. While every effort has been made to avoid offensive material, historical records reflect the norm that existed at that time, and it is important that they are reproduced truthfully.

Aboriginal Place names are acknowledged:

Cullen Cullen	- Wellington Point, Birkdale & Thorneside
Erobin	- King Island
Nandeebie or Indillie	- Cleveland, Thornlands, Ormiston, Alexandra Hills
Doobawah	- Raby Bay
Quandamooka	- Moreton Bay
Kapallaba	- Capalaba
Joonggabbin	- Sheldon
Jungalpin or Tungipin	- Mount Cotton
Talwalpin	- Redland Bay
Warrer Warrer	- Victoria Point
Eprapa	- Pinklands
Minjerribah	- Stradbroke Island
Canaipa	- Russell Island
Jencoomercha	- Macleay Island
Goochie mudlo	- Coochiemudlo Island
Ngudooroo	- Lamb Island
Tindappah	- Garden Island
Teerk Roo Ra	- Peel Island
Noogoon	- St Helena Island
Milwarpin	- Green Island
Mubanbila	- Bird Island
Guwawanewa	- Goat Island
Perulpa	- Perulpa Island
Karragarra	- Karragarra Island
Mulgumpin	- Moreton Island
Pulan	- Amity Point
Mooloombah	- Point Lookout
Goompi	- Dunwich
Karboora	- Blue Lake
Bummiera	- Brown Lake

To find more information about some of the stories included in this timeline, search in the library catalogue via the [Local History](#) link or by clicking on the **Libraries** or **Discover Redlands Coast** link on the Redland City Council website <https://www.redland.qld.gov.au> and following the links to Local History.