Wellington Point

Low tide at Wellington Point, 1895   John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

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.

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Table of Contents

Casuarina Cottage (far right) Fernbourne Road, Wellington Point, 1920s.   HP0571
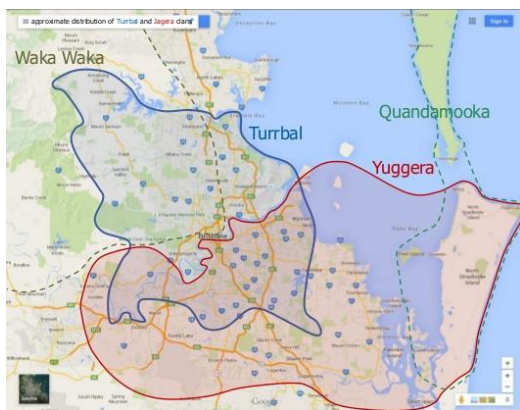
Quandamooka People have lived on and around this area for tens of thousands of years. Geological evidence dates occupation at a minimum of 21,000 years. Local people identify the Noonucal, Gorenpul and Nughi as the traditional owners of what is now known as Redlands Coast and its adjoining areas.

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.

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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 30,000 years, making Aboriginal people the world's first bakers.

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 Wellington Point's indigenous history are sketchy. Cullen Cullen (Wellington Point) and Yerubin (King Island) shared a common history with the surrounding area, and 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 waters around the Point, as well as hunting in the wider region.

Campsites would have been found all around Quandamooka (Moreton Bay) wherever there was fresh water in creeks or waterholes. In the Wellington Point area creeks such as Tarradarrapin and Hilliards 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.

On the flip side though, when Europeans arrived, the settlers also needed fresh water, so for the most part, European settlements grew around those same areas.

Some Reserve sites (possible Aboriginal campsites).   *Campsites of greater Brisbane* by Dr Ray Kerkhove, 2015

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 at places like King Island from the 1840s, well before Wellington Point was opened to settlers.

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

Wellington Point's Aboriginal name was Cullen Cullen, King Island's Aboriginal name was Yerubin or Erobin. Wellington Point's first European name was King Point up until the 1842 surveys. After the surveys the previously un-named (by Europeans) island retained the name King, with the mainland area re-named for the Duke of Wellington. During Gilbert Burnett's time the general Wellington Point area was commonly referred to as Trafalgar Vale.

Early Development

Wellington Point was surveyed and named by Robert Dixon in 1842. His survey of Moreton Bay was dedicated to the Duke of Cleveland. Waterloo Bay, King Island, Raby Bay, Cleveland Point, Hilliards and Tingalpa Creeks were also named. A more detailed survey of the area was undertaken by James Warner in 1861 and a further survey in 1864 marked out subdivisions on the Point and back to Birkdale Road. This land was mostly sold to Brisbane business people.

One of the first settlers in the area was Gilbert Burnett. He arrived in Australia from England with his family in 1866 and after spending some time at the Gympie Goldfields, married Martha Dawson in 1869. Her father John ran a sugar mill at Manly in the vicinity of the old Edgell Factory. John Dawson became ill and Burnett then managed his mill. When he died the property was sold and Burnett went to work at Richard Newton's sugar mill at Redland Bay.

Gilbert Burnett, c1900.   HP0557

Louis Hope was the leading sugar grower in the region and he soon hired Burnett as manager. Burnett worked for Hope for some years and ultimately bought much of his milling equipment when Hope's mill was dismantled in 1874.

In 1875 Burnett took out a seven year lease on all of Hope's land on the western side of Hilliards Creek. He established his first home on the current site of *Whepstead.* The estate was known as *Trafalgar Vale.* Burnett carried on in the sugar industry with the assistance of Kanaka (South Sea Islander) labourers.

South Sea Island labourers, or Kanakas, were widely used in the sugar industry.

This group was photographed in 1871, in front of their accommodation hut on the Redland Bay sugar plantation.

HP4383

In November 1879 the government passed the Divisional Boards Act, which required new municipal boundaries comprising 72 divisions in Queensland. The Tingalpa Divisional Board boundaries were immense and covered all of the current Redland Shire, the Brisbane suburbs of Burbank, Rochedale and Eight Mile Plains and Logan City suburbs to the east of Kingston Road down to the Logan River. The first meeting of the Tingalpa Divisional Board was held at Heinemann's house at Mt Cotton on 5 February 1880.

Early councillors included Gilbert Burnett, James Willard of Capalaba and Michael Ryan of Cleveland. Robert Grieve (of what is now Rochedale) was the first chairman. In 1881 Gilbert Burnett was elected chairman. By that time the Board had established itself at Mt Cotton and had built an office/hall known as the Board's House.

The size of the administration area was cumbersome and in April 1885, William Thorne of Mooroondu Point who was Tingalpa chairman at the time, wrote to the Colonial Secretary asking that a separate division be formed.

The first meeting of the Cleveland Divisional Board was held at William Ross's home, Raby House at Cleveland Point in July 1885, and Gilbert Burnett was elected Chairman. Like Burnett, Ross had made money on the Gympie goldfields when he first arrived from Scotland.

Raby House Cleveland Point (2nd from left, with chimney), 1879   LH

Subsequent meetings that year were held at Chairman Gilbert Burnett's house *Trafalgar Vale.* Burnett was keen to establish the headquarters of the Divisional Board in Wellington Point. At that time he had moved from sugar milling into saw milling and had begun subdividing land at Wellington Point. Initial subdivisions were adjoining the mill, which was in Fernbourne Road, and the adjacent area, which included Station and Harris Streets, Valley Road, Roberts, Musgrave, Apsley, Arthur and Wellesley Streets.

Unfortunately for Burnett, the other councillors chose to locate the board's office in Cleveland and both Burnett and the clerk of the council Richard Rogers, who was also clerk at Burnett's mill, resigned when this decision was made citing business reasons.

LH *"Salad Bowl Star"* 30/04/1969

Six months after its formation, in January 1886 Cleveland Divisional Board elected William Ross as its Chairman, and the new office was erected on the corner of Bloomfield and Middle Streets in Raby Bay (Cleveland) later that year.

This same area of land in Raby Bay had been a great Aboriginal meeting place for countless years, with the earliest European settlers reporting large gatherings of up to 500 people who camped there, coming together from the islands and inland greater Brisbane and Ipswich areas, to exchange fish and shellfish for things like Bunya nuts and other food that was not in abundance locally, as well as items that they had made. At night they would sing and dance.

While this traditional use of the land has been lost, the corner of Bloomfield and Middle Streets in Cleveland still continues to be an important meeting place to this day.

In 1969 Redland Shire Council built a new red brick building on the same site. The Shire office was sent to Victoria Point and the Shire Hall to Wellington Point, to be re-purposed as Girl Guides Association halls.

At a special meeting of RSC in 1965 to discuss new shire chambers: Mr Stapleton, secretary of the Brisbane Library Board attended meeting and said if shire set up free library service, it was qualify for subsidies and loan of books. So a public library was included in new building as there was no extra cost.

The old Council building had two parts, and both were re-purposed. The 1886 Shire Office became the Victoria Point Guide & Brownie hut (opened June 1969), and the Shire Hall became the Wellington Point Girl Guides Hut (opened October 1969).

The 1886 Shire Office in Colburn Avenue Victoria Point, Google Street View 2013.

The Shire Hall (*The Redland Star* 1968) became the Wellington Point Guides hut in Roberts Street, Google Street View, 2020

A new Redland Shire Council Building was opened in 1969, on the old site at the corner of Bloomfield and Middle Streets. The single storey section on the left hand side of the main building housed a baby and immunisation clinic, and the library which had moved from the RSL Memorial School of Arts Hall.   In October Council voted that the Poinciana tree would be the official emblem of the Shire.

Cleveland Point was an established watering hole for residents of Brisbane and surrounds by 1885, having 3 hotels; the Brighton (Grand View), the Cleveland (Cassim's) and the Pier (site of Lighthouse restaurant) and Wellington Point soon followed with the Wellington Point Hotel and store which was opened by John C Wilson c1888 in anticipation of the railway arriving in 1889.

Most public meetings at that time were held in the hotel which also dates from about 1888. Other community activities included the Wellington Point Athletics Club, which asked for the road in front of the hotel to be cleared as a running track in June 1890.

Land sales of the time actively promoted the Point as a marine resort, with the usual exhortations to buyers to take advantage of the cool breezes and fresh sea air. The reserve on the tip of Wellington Point rapidly became part of the appeal for residents and visitors from surrounding areas, especially Brisbane.

Wellington Point swimming enclosure and bathing sheds in 1929, and near the top, the ravine causeway.   HP1111

Of the three Point reserves (Cleveland, Wellington and Victoria) Wellington Point's is the only one that has had almost no other function since then except as a recreational area (other than during WWII).

Redlands Coast was widely known as Sleepy Hollow for 100 years. In 1961 the population was only 9,000 with many residents being farmers. Then in 1968 Leslie Harrison dam opened and provided a reticulated water supply, followed in 1976 by installation of a sewerage system, fixing many drainage problems and allowing for development.

The Commonwealth Games in 1982 and Expo '88 both attracted visitors to the area, then the return of the trains in the late 1980's as well as a new 4 lane road (built to Chandler Sports Complex for the Commonwealth Games) made the daily commute to Brisbane from Redlands a more attractive prospect.

Establishing infrastructure

The first mail service to the region was established in 1882, with the receiving office operating from Gilbert Burnett's residence. Once the railway arrived in 1889, the mail was collected from the railway station.

In December 1886, £200 ($375) was allocated by council from a State allowance, to fill a ravine about a ¼ mile (400m) from the Point, creating a causeway above the high tide level. This area collapsed during floods in 2011-2012, with the Point being accessible only to residents until repairs had been completed.

HP0490

From 1884 the promise of a railway to Cleveland led to the inevitable meetings and deputations concerning the most suitable route. Initial speculation suggested that a direct route along Old Cleveland Road would be chosen as the most direct one. However the initial survey revealed poor quality soil along this route. The government wanted to open up the best agricultural land so that the railway would be used to transport produce to market. It was desirous to service the fort at Lytton and as well.

Ultimately the coastal route via Wynnum and Manly was chosen. The route from Birkdale through Wellington Point was initially marked out much further south. A Select Committee of Inquiry was called in November 1886. One of the key witnesses was Gilbert Burnett. He indicated that at that time only about one quarter of the agricultural land in the district was under cultivation. The potential existed for much expansion in this industry. A railway would allow more people to access this land and to get their produce to markets. Burnett was already transporting timber by dray to Bulimba, Coorparoo and Wynnum. Following this inquiry the route was changed so that the railway station at Wellington Point was quite close to Burnett's mill.

The children of this growing area generally attended the Cleveland West (Ormiston) School. They could cross Hilliards Creek at the end of what is now Edith Street via a timber road bridge to Hilliards Street on the Ormiston side or via a log footbridge, which roughly links Duncan Road and Oak Street. Both bridges date back to the days of Louis Hope's sugar plantation and it is likely that they were built by Kanaka (South Sea Islander) labour.

Local residents of Wellington Point wanted a local school and on 14 March 1885 a public meeting was held and a committee formed aimed at establishing a school in Wellington Point. One of the most vocal opponents to the proposed site was Fred Sinai who lived next to Willard's farm. His four children would face a long daily walk, and the area that he suggested eventually became the site of Birkdale State School.
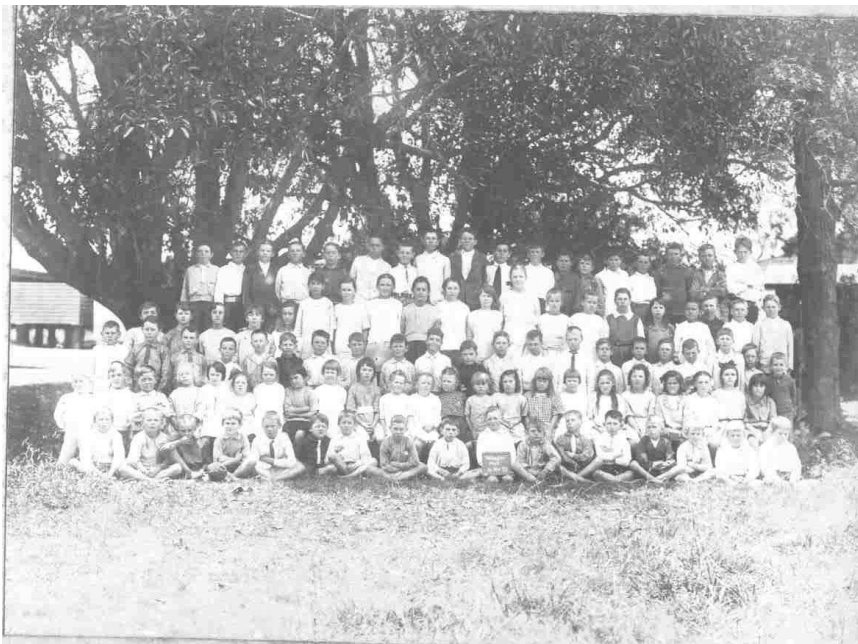
After much deliberation land was purchased from James Davidson in mid-1886 and tenders were called for the construction of the school house and teacher's residence in July 1886. The successful tenderer was local builder Pat Horisk. He had completed construction of the Redland Bay School in December 1885. The Wellington Point School opened in May 1887 with Joseph Wedd as the first teacher.

Wellington Point State School, date unknown.   HP2105

In 1901 the residence and the classroom were both extended, then later that year a second classroom building was erected following community fundraising over the previous 2 years. 1937, the old school residence was removed to a site on the point (The Esplanade) and a new house was constructed closer to the main road than the site of the original house.

Class of 1922, Wellington Point State School   HP1870

In 1948 Cleveland Shire Council was forced to erect a warning notice after earthenware drainage pipes to the sea were frequently being broken by people who were removing oysters from them.

Recreation

Recreation was also on the agenda with the Cleveland Divisional Board writing to the Minister for Lands in October 1886 requesting that King Island be vested in the hands of the board as a reserve after concerns by visitors that trees were being destroyed on the Island. At that time the island comprised about 2 acres. This process was formalised in 1887. By 1888 local residents petitioned the council to allocate a sum of money to cut a road through the end of the bluff on Wellington Point to allow access down to the beach and out to King Island.

By 1897 the council had purchased land at the end of the point to be included in the area for public recreation. It was a popular picnic and camping spot with tourists and the boating fraternity. Interestingly, a newspaper report of the day indicated that King Island could be accessed via the spit at any stage of the tide except half an hour before and after high tide.

King Island became the home of the Phillips family from December 1904 until April 1906. One of the children in the family suffered from polio and medical advice of the day recommended salt water bathing and sea air. King Island was the ideal place. Mr Phillips could still commute to his bank job in the city. At that time there was half an acre of thick vine scrub with possums, bandicoots and abundant birdlife on the island.

People walking to King Island at low tide, undated   RP1598

In later years it was reported that many poultry farmers were taking sand from the beach and King Island to provide shell grit. This may partially explain the depletion of the island and the sand spit, although erosion was also a problem. In 1917 the Manly Sailing Club agreed to clear the island of prickly pear, lantana, and 'all useless timber and undergrowth' in order to build two toilets on the island.

The other reserve for public recreation was declared on the eastern side of the Point in 1888, in the area now known as the Geoff Skinner Environmental Reserve. This site again has links with Gilbert Burnett. In 1885 the area had been surveyed into lots of roughly 10 acres. The area of salt pans was traversed by a tramway on a causeway between Burnett's mill and a jetty which, stretched from the mangroves to the low water mark.

This causeway was constructed in 1884 when Burnett had kanakas still working for him. It was designed to transport sugar and/or timber, but it seems that it was never used for this purpose as Burnett had the mouth of Hilliards Creek deepened and he used his wharf in the creek instead, and he promoted the use of this jetty as an entry point to the district.

As well as enabling prospective purchasers of his land to access the region, it was planned for the salt pans to be drained and protected by a sea wall, so that sporting activities could be carried out on weekends. A group of locals put the proposal to the Under Secretary of Public Lands in 1888. They included F T Brentnall, Gilbert Burnett, Percival Hiley, Thomas Watson Thomason, John Wilson, William Helmholtz, John Woodgate, Frederick Wendt, and Carl Ziegenfusz.

While this proposal did not proceed, a further proposal was put forward in 1900 to use the area as a rifle range. The region remained a popular tourist destination with a boarding house established by John Hine in 1890. Known as the Waverley Boarding House, it was on the western side of the Point, just to the south of Marshall Lane. The property was auctioned and sold in 1897.

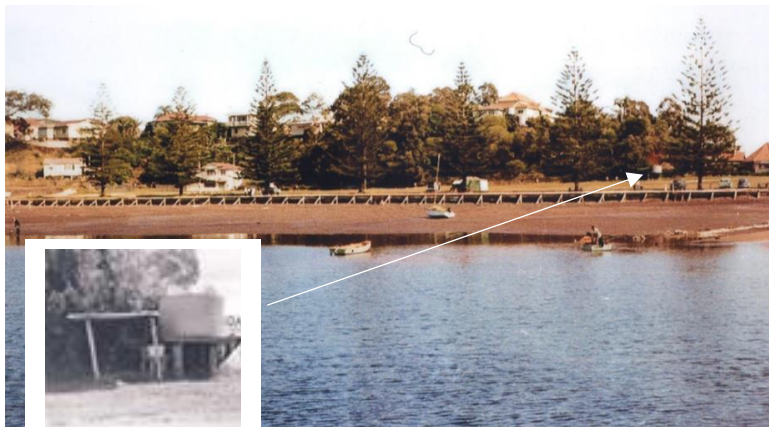Wellington Point Reserve, 1926. New facilities. BCC-CRB-0032.jpg

As with the other Points, practically all the facilities at Wellington Point were built as a result of public demand. This usually took the form of lobbying the local authority.

A bathing enclosure was built on the western side of Wellington Point in about 1890 and other facilities, such as water closets (toilets) and men's and women's bathing sheds, soon followed.

Responsibility for public areas could be problematic, and was often solved by putting the land in the hands of the relevant local authority. This gave the authority the means to control activities taking place within its boundaries.

By 1897 the Cleveland Divisional Board (renamed Cleveland Shire Council from 1902) had purchased land at the end of Wellington Point as a public recreation reserve.

The King Island and Wellington Point reserves were already popular picnic and camping spots with tourists and the boating fraternity, and demands from these groups no doubt led to the Cleveland Divisional Board taking control. Slowly, more recreational facilities were added to the Point, but in keeping with the times, most were basic. In 1911 trees were planted and a well was dug to supply campers with water. More ambitious proposals, such as the Railway Department's 1913 plan to run a tramway to the Point due to popular demand by residents, came to nothing.

It is not known exactly where the well was. However this 1960's photo shows a water tank that was erected for campers just left of the kiosk, and it was next to a bore which supplemented it. The Kiosk supplied hot water.

In 1953 The Royal Theatre at Wellington Point was opened by Federal member The Honourable Joshua Francis, Minister for the Army.

Kiosk and Hotel

The 1920s saw a big increase in the development of facilities at all the district's points, including Wellington Point, as demand grew. A new bathing enclosure was built in 1922 on the western beach by the Wellington Point school committee to enable the children to learn to swim. By 1941 a slippery slide had been built for the bathing enclosure and both facilities remained popular well into the 1960s.

HP7158

Businessman Alexander James Lamont began subdivision of his property at the end of Wellington Point in 1911 which included Marshall and Champion Lanes. Marshall was one of the first purchasers of the land. He was a Shire Councillor and licensee of the Wellington Point Hotel. This was followed by the drive to establish a kiosk and jetty during the 1920s, with the initial proposal came from Mr A Wenborn in February 1924, who later ran the hotel.

Moves had been afoot to build a kiosk on Wellington Point from at least 1913, when the Cleveland Shire Council received an application to build a refreshments booth on Cleveland Point. The Council decided to call tenders for 'properly constructed' booths at both Cleveland Point and Wellington Point. At that time Victoria Point was still relatively undeveloped other than by farming.

Discussions continued for more than a decade, but no kiosk eventuated at either site. Eventually in 1924 the Cleveland Shire Council accepted local storekeeper Mr Robertson's offer to provide hot water to campers and visitors at Wellington Point from his shop on the corner of Champion Lane (in more recent years this was the Erobin Post Office).
The former Erobin Post Office, c1990   RP0410

This wasn't the end of the matter; after more requests from people interested in operating a kiosk, the Council again resolved to call tenders. But by May 1925, while Council continued its ditherings, another kiosk was being built on land below the home of the Johns family, apparently by the Robertson family, who also operated it once it was running.

Since the point of a kiosk was to supply the public with refreshments, the Council argued, the original proposal to build one on Council's reserve was put in abeyance. The kiosk on the Johns land was initially a simple rotunda.

Postcard showing Johns home, the kiosk and the ice and butter trucks, Wellington Point, 1926   HP1918

This did not stop other people from lobbying the Council to establish kiosks over the next few years. They included approaches from Mr Prior Daniels, and the Wellington Point Refreshment Co, which tendered for a site on the western side for a jetty and kiosk. Kiosk operator Mr Robertson also put in a bid for a jetty and swimming pool on the north eastern corner of the reserve.

Mr Robertson continued to run his kiosk into the 1930s, despite continually infringing the Council by-laws by holding dances on Sundays, which were illegal. In September 1946 the Council decided to call tenders for a new beach stall on Wellington Point. The successful tenderer was Clara Galloway who ran the Cleveland Pier Kiosk on Cleveland Point. Her tender was on behalf of her son-in-law Fred Kratzmann who had returned from military service in New Guinea.

Tom Galloway and Fred Kratzmann built extensions to the original kiosk rotunda from old army huts which they moved from Canungra, then Fred and his wife Olive (nee Galloway) ran the kiosk for a short while. In August 1947 the Galloways took over Hurst and Simmons' old store on the corner of Apsley Street and Main Road, which they ran until the late 1990s.

Wellington Point kiosk and amenities huts on western beach, c1931   HP7175

The old kiosk on the beach was replaced in the early 1980s

RP0993

The Jetty

Old Wellington Point jetty, c1950s   JOL 74927

Wellington Point jetty, 1985   RP1168

The jetty took nearly as long to build as the kiosk. The boating fraternity had been lobbying for a jetty on the Point from at least 1915, and as with the kiosk, the Cleveland Shire Council tossed the idea around for years.

In 1932 the Council resolved to use Commonwealth Loan Scheme funds to build a jetty but this also came to nothing. Finally, in December 1935 Councillor Marshall proposed that relief workers (unemployed people during the depression years – an early form of 'work for the dole') should be employed to erect the jetty and bathing enclosure. This proposal was successful but by June 1937 it was still not finished and the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron proposed building a jetty of its own.

By the late 1940s this ten year-old RQYS ti-tree jetty was falling into disrepair despite ongoing repairs. Council approached the Department of Harbours and Marine about a new jetty, having first established that the current site was favoured by its users. The Council heard that 12 professional fishermen, two boat hirers and at least 30 dinghies and 20 launches constantly used the jetty. The average number of weekend visitors using the jetty was 60, and an average 80 families used the reserve during the Christmas holidays.

Regular repair work continued on the jetty, but by the mid-1950s users had had enough and two petitions with nearly 500 signatures were sent to the recently formed Redland Shire Council and the State Government to make the jetty safe. In December 1955 the Council closed the old jetty to the public because it was dangerous, and in 1959 it was pulled down.

Funds were finally allocated in the State Government's 1959-60 budget for a new jetty and three years later dredging was carried out at the end of the Wellington Point jetty to improve boating access.

Camping

Wellington Point, 1901   JOL 120915

Wellington Point campers, 1910. The fences suggest that different sections of the beach may have had different uses.

BCC-CRB-0031

Western beach campers Wellington Point, 1919   HP1828

Camping on Wellington Point had a long history, and the first water supply, a well, was dug in 1911 specifically to meet the needs of this group.

The Point's popularity continued to grow and new facilities continued to be built as a result of their activities, including new toilet facilities in December 1923 to cope with the expected influx of campers over the Christmas holiday period.

Not everyone approved of the campers, and over the years there were several calls from local groups to close the Wellington Pt reserve to camping, often because of concerns about rowdy behaviour and over-crowding, especially during peak holiday times. As a result of these complaints, camping was restricted to the eastern side of the Point for many years after 1925.

Still demand grew, and in 1935 the *Courier Mail* began holding sand garden competitions on the beach during the Christmas school holidays. Camping resumed and other than a short break during WWII, continued until 1974 when all camping was banned on mainland Redland Shire.

Wellington Point western beach with children's slide, campers (tents and caravans) all around the reserve, 1950s.   HP5790

Eastern side camping ground and jetty Wellington Point 1970s   HP7267

WWII

Some Wellington Point residents recalled seeing a plane coming down in Moreton Bay. Through the course of the war there were several in or near the Redlands:

12-Aug-40	in the sea off Jumpinpin	RAAF	Hudson	A16-27
22-Dec-41	In the sea off Brisbane	US Navy	Curtiss SOC Seagull	2 killed
13-Feb-42	Thornlands, near Cleveland	RAAF	Wirraway	A20-100, collided with aircraft A20-290 below
5-Jul-42	Moreton Bay	USAAF	A-20A Havoc	#40-3154, 1 killed
15-Jul-42	Moreton Bay at Sandgate near Redcliffe	USAAF	P-400 Airacobra	1 killed
abt Oct 42	North Stradbroke Island	USAAF	B-26 Marauder	#41-17553
19 Jul 43 (1)	Moreton Bay, Brisbane	USAAF	P-38H Lightning	#42-66518, 433 Fighter Squadron, 475th Fighter Group, pilot Martin L. Low, crashed due to engine failure
20-Oct-43	Possibly in the Brisbane area	USAAF	Unknown	1 killed
30-Sep-44	Moreton Bay	USAAF	B-25D-30 Mitchell	#43-3488, 5 killed

Source: OZ@War website Peter Dunn

American Navy occupation of Wellington Point from June 1943 put paid to any camping on the site in the holiday periods. Locals could only access the kiosk and the jetty. They established a gunnery school on the site and regular shooting practice was held including attempts at 'bombing' King Island. A series of gun pits were built along the north east shoreline. A plane towing a silk drogue target would fly over.

The target was dropped into the sea when the shooting finished and the local women would row out to fetch the 'parachute silk' targets. Many Wellington Point homes boasted new silk bedspreads and lingerie at that time!

In April 1943 17 huts were requested from the Allied Works Council, to be built by Hancock and Gore for the US Navy at Wellington Point. A series of gun pits were also built along the north east shoreline. In June 1944 US Navy fenced off the reserve on the eastern side although access to the jetty was still available. The American camp was a large one comprising about 1500 men and the council well could not supply enough water. Further water supplies came from Apps' farm between Christina Street and Douro Road.   The US presence made a big impact on Wellington Point and its residents, and even after the war, camping was barred on the reserve for several years.

This proved to be a wise move, when in January 1946 a harbour defence mine was discovered washed up on the beach. The area was cleared and put under guard until it was made safe. Following higher-than-average tides, bullet casings may still found on the beach from time to time, though these may also be from a post-war rifle range on the salt pan.

After the US Navy left the buildings that remained were sold. Some became homes at the Point, one became an extension to the kiosk, and others were bought by organisations such as the Cleveland Boy Scouts, where they became part of the infrastructure they used. The Cleveland Scout building in Gordon Street was destroyed in a 2018 arson attack.

The Australian Women's Land Army established a camp at the Birkdale School of Arts hall in August 1942. The girls worked at many local farms from Wellington Point to Cleveland. More camps were located at Victoria Point and Redland Bay.

HP0811

Vegetation and beautification

Maintenance of the Cleveland Point and Wellington Point reserves occupied many hours of the Cleveland Shire Council's time. Initially, maintenance was relatively simple; visitors wanted a clean area with a pleasant outlook and a bit of shade. As numbers increased, sanitation became a problem. Then they wanted access to fresh water. Vandalism had sprung up very early on, with trees appearing to be particular targets.

It is probably fair to say that the Cleveland Point reserve received preferential treatment over Wellington Point reserve, most likely because it had a longer history as a recreational destination and was surrounded by a bigger population. From 1891 the train line terminated on Cleveland Point, not far from the old courthouse, giving visitors easy access to the reserve on the Point. It was also more exposed and subject to erosion than Wellington Point, so more ongoing work was needed. It should also be pointed out that work was often the result of community lobbying, and Cleveland residents seemed to do more of this than those at Wellington Point.

Tree planting for shade and general beautification took place at Cleveland Point from at least 1881, much of it led by William Finucane and overseen by James Pink, but evidence has not been found of tree planting at Wellington Point until the next century. In 1911 the Cleveland Shire Council lamented the failure of a recent tree planting on Wellington Point, and suggested that wild cotton trees might be more successful.

Tree planting all over the district was stepped up in the 1920s. In 1924 local nurseryman Mr French recommended that banyan fig trees be planted at Wellington Point as part of the centenary of the 'discovery of the Brisbane River by Lieut. John Oxley', in line with a request by the Brisbane Centenary Committee.

In 1927 approval was given to plant more trees, and six large leaf Moreton Bay fig trees were planted in a ring at the Point.

The ring itself was '50 yards in diameter' and had been erected in 1923 to keep out straying stock.

Moreton Bay Fig trees, 1939

HP1110

The Cleveland Shire Council took full advantage of the availability of relief workers during the 1930s, putting them to work on many public projects at both Cleveland and Wellington Points.

Relief workers planted Norfolk pine trees along the eastern side of the Wellington Point reserve at the end of the 1930s. Other relief work during the 1930s included cutting down the hill behind the kiosk to extend the useable land on the eastern side of the reserve. Relief workers also constructed steps at the end of Douro Road.

Norfolk Pine trees in eastern camp ground, HP7267

Erosion was a continual problem and over the years various attempts were made to control it. In 1914 the Cleveland Shire Council resolved to build a groyne as an experiment to deal with the erosion taking place at Wellington Point, and people were prevented from taking sand from the foreshore, partly to control erosion. Retaining walls were built over the years, including in 1933 by relief workers.

Occupations and Business

During the mid-1880s the region was developing rapidly. Permanent residents included engineer Thomas McGovern and oysterman Frederick Schultz who lived on either side of the Point, Davidsons and Ziegenfuszs on both side of Douro Road, and the many workers at Burnett's Mill. These included Gilbert's brother, George who was the mill manager and sawyer, who lived on the northern corner of Station Street. Their father John lived nearby on the main road, gardener Richard (Dicky) Dart, clerk Richard Rogers, carpenter Joseph Clark and fireman William Lovett, who lived in the house now known as *Casuarina Cottage*. By 1888 John C Wilson had opened the Wellington Point Family Hotel and store.

William Cross established a butcher shop on the corner of Valley Road and the main road at that time also. (His father James had a butchery business in Cleveland.) By 1889, William Birgan was running a store on Main Road near the current shopping precinct. The store burnt down in October 1890.

Mr Helmholz lived next door and at that time had extensive vineyards planted down towards the bay. An agricultural reporter who visited Wellington Point in 1885 noted the importance of Helmholtz's vineyards, which were planted chiefly with Isabella grapes which produced 300 gallons of wine each year. Helmholtz sold the wine for 15 shillings a dozen.

 It would seem that the market for wine was not a viable one and he was destined to follow other local farmers and turn to banana growing. Those involved in banana culture in 1885 included Messrs' Wendt Jnr, Ziegenfusz, Helmholtz Snr and Jnr, Gothelfstackel, Eichenloff, Johnstone Bros, and Woodgate and sons of Birkdale. The other major property in the area was Peter Binger's orchard and the nearby orchard of James Pink's which was managed by Edward Vorweg. Pink's property was known as *The Badgens*.

At that time there were over 600 orange trees on Pink's plantation. Pink, in partnership with Alf Nightingale, subdivided his estate in 1885. When James Pink left his post as curator of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens in 1886 he then lived on the land.

James Pink, 1881   HP7186

Grape growing remained important to the region in the late 1800s with farmers being given instructions on pruning grapes at Laing's vineyard at Wellington Point in November 1898. James Baron (*Birkdale House* in Roger Street) and Peter Binger were listed as vignerons from 1894 until Baron's death in 1907.

Other residents included John Kock who was managing oyster leases along the Point, and retired engineer Percival Hiley who had established his home *Seaview* on the Point. He sold some of his land in the vicinity of Marshall Lane to retired businessman John McMah. Farmer William Wendt owned the land now occupied by the Christina Street and Oceanic Street estate and into the new Sovereign Waters Estate, which in the 1880s was known as Wendt's Swamp.

Police constable Thomas Dawes was in residence in the area in the late 1880s and early 1890s. He lived in a house owned by Mrs Catherine Quaile in Valley Road. (The Divisional Board regularly asked for a police presence to oversee the Christmas holidays in Wellington Point.) The Quailes built a home at 6 Harris Street in 1890/1 with the intention of supplying refreshments to visitors to Wellington Point and also running a horse and wagon from the station to the beach and back.

Business premises in Wellington Point during the late 19th and early 20th centuries stretched from the railway station to the hotel, and there were a couple of shops at the top of the hill leading down to the point. Bob Laing had a blacksmith shop under the fig tree in Harris Street, although he lived in Wellesley Street, where his house remains today. John Wilson ran the first store from near the hotel. William Cross was listed as the Wellington Point butcher from the late 1880s. His premises were on the corner of Valley Road and Main Road.

John and James Hurst operated a produce business in the area from about 1895. By 1903, John Hurst had established a store, which at some point in time was apparently run from the home known as Coogee in Arthur Street. He built a store on the corner of Apsley Street and Main Road in about 1909 which was run as a general store by Fred and Olive Kratzmann until the late 1990s. It was later a motor mower shop, but it burned down in 2010.

Kratzmann's store 411 Main Road, 1950   HP0451

A bakery was established between the home of the Haimes family (originally Quaile's home at No 6) and Slater's house in Harris Street. It was most likely run by W Warren from about 1917. As was customary in the Cleveland district, the bakery and the house was eventually purchased by Cleveland Baker G J Walter. It has been said that the best way to make money in the district was to start up a bakery because GJ was sure to buy you out! He purchased the property in 1922.
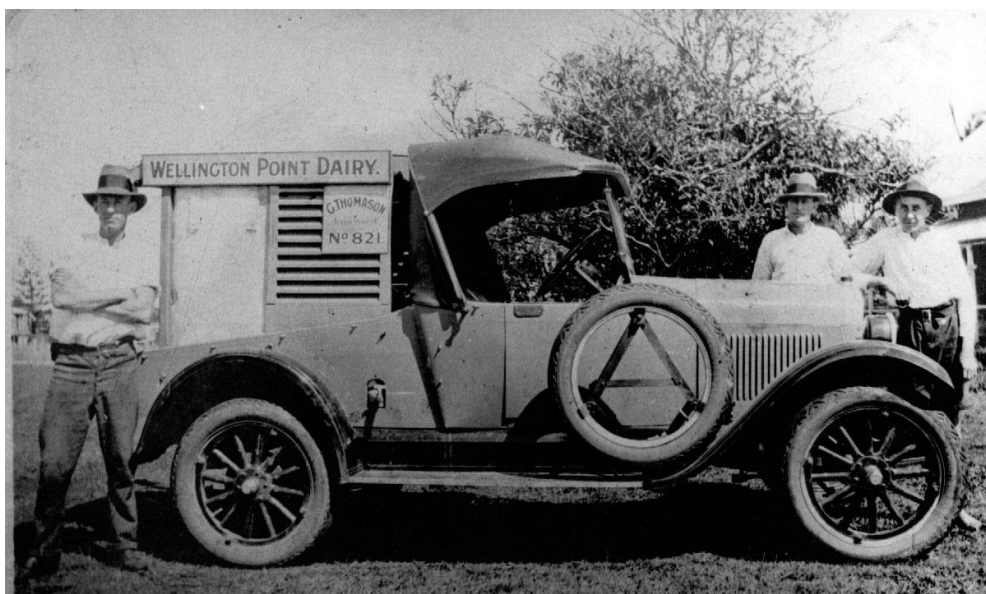
Another store was run by Henry Cowie on the corner of Harris Street and Main Road. He began operation in the early 1930s. At that time it was known as the Station Store and in the late 30s was transferred to Messrs Pooley and Champion. Most of the adjoining land was owned either by Shire Chairman, baker and speculator, G J Walter, or local butcher John Slater.

It is likely that both men were hoping that the close proximity to the station would make this land an ideal investment for future businesses or housing. Closer to the hotel, John Hurst sold some of his land to Mr Lintott to establish a bakery in October 1931.

By 1934 Lintotts had built a home adjacent to the bakery which was described in the local paper as an 'artistic villa of concrete with a tiled roof.'

C J McDonald was running the Bakery at the time (unsure if it was the same as Lintotts). Lintott's house was demolished around 1990 to make way for a shopping centre. The only remaining feature was one panel of the concrete fence between Kratzmann's store and the new shops. On the Point, John Robertson continued to run his store, and Jack Dragovitch also ran a shop at the top of the hill above the beach.

During the interwar years the Burnett family, under the direction of step-son George Thomason, established a modern dairy to the south of the old saw mill. Two silos (one underground) were constructed on the property in which to store fodder for the cattle. The Burnett's sold high quality milk to the region and sons Len and Robbie delivered the milk to Wellington Point and Cleveland.

Wellington Point Dairy truck (1926 Chevrolet with special pneumatic tyres) with Rob Burnett, George Thomason and Len Burnett. George Thomason ran the dairy for 23 years (1918-1941). On his retirement, it was taken over by A.M. Sneesby, who was also a returned WWI soldier. *(Redland News July 17, 1941)* HP0607

Another dairy in Wellington Point had been established by Charles Tester much earlier. Tester bought land on the point in 1908, part of which is now occupied by a 3 storey unit block. The dairy house remains, although it has been set back from the road and bricked in underneath. The milking sheds were once on the site of the modern 3 storey house which now spills down the embankment to the shore. The original house was most likely built by Joseph McMah.

The reserve around Burnett's old jetty was locally known as 'the piles' and was utilised as a swimming area Locals requested that the area be cleared of mangroves and bathing shed be provided in 1919. In December 1926 locals requested council approve of a plan for a working bee to remove mangroves from the area and in 1928 a bathing enclosure was proposed. Mangrove removal was funded and by January 1929 thirty chains (600m) of mangroves had been removed and sand was building to make a beach, the remnants of which are still visible, as are the jetty piles.
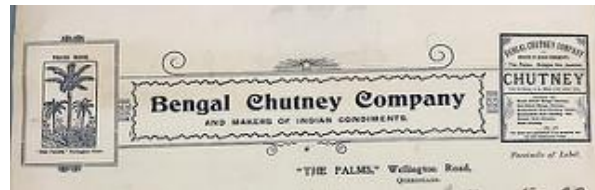
During 1891 a significant home called *The Badgens* was built in the area by James Pink, who was Chairman of the Cleveland Divisional Board at the time. The house is now known as *The Palms* although it is likely that this name came from later owners the McDonald family. The house was purchased by Peter James McDonald in 1895. He had been postmaster for South Brisbane from 1886. His sons Arthur and James are credited with starting the Bengal Chutney Company from *The Palms* at the turn of the century.

A factory was established in East Brisbane in the early 1900s and the product became known as Palms Chutney.

The Palms, c1910   HP4531

The Badgens/The Palms in 1946 when it still extended down to Collingwood Road, and in 1998 now near the Hardy Road / Marlborough Road roundabout.

Subdivisions and Settlers

Land development activities by Gilbert Burnett included the floating of the Wellington Point Land Company Ltd in July 1887. Land bounded by Station Street and Duncan Road was subdivided and shareholders shared in the profits (or losses) of the venture. Land in the vicinity of Kefford Street was also subdivided and offered for sale in 1888.

Other subdivisions undertaken at the time of the construction of the Cleveland Railway included the Rolica estate adjacent to the hotel, which was subdivided by James Henry Davidson in partnership with Sir Patrick Alfred Jennings of Sydney (former Premier of New South Wales), and the Wellesley Estate which included Thomas, Cavell and Murray Streets on the border of Birkdale and Wellington Point.

Land Sales poster 1889

Letterbox Hill was the name given to the hill where the present Old Cleveland Road East, Main Road and Allenby Road intersect. It was so called because Gilbert Burnett had his letter box there, fitted with a pipe-like device, so that the coachman did not have to leave his seat to deliver the mail to the box.

The railway to Cleveland was completed in late 1889. It was hoped that it would lead to further development in the region. Much of the activity in the preceding few years had been in anticipation of the railway. Probably the most enduring testament to the optimism at that time was the construction of Burnett's house *Fernbourne* (later known as *Whepstead*). In 1889 Wellesley Estate was promoted as being between the Wellington Point and Birkdale Stations and that there were plans to put in a siding nearby.

Badgen Siding was established on Badgen Road in 1916, named for James Pink's former home *The Badgens*. This land was divided into 16 perch allotments. By the time the siding opened at Badgen, most of this estate on either side of Thomas Street was owned by Eliza and Pauline Hansen. The estate was run as a nursery by the Hansen family, who tried to have the roads closed on the estate in 1917.

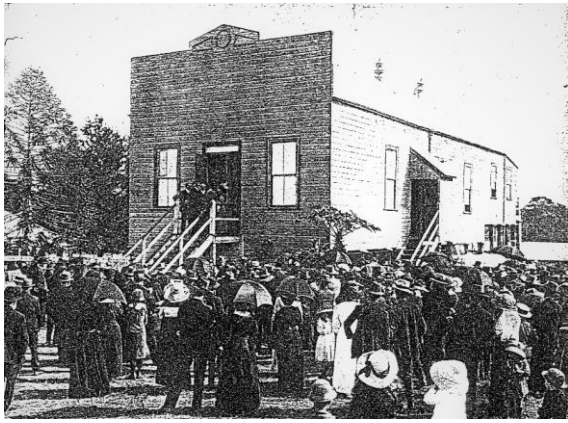Badgen Siding, c1958.   HP7394

Community activities

A Methodist Church was established in Wellington Point in 1888 adjacent to the hotel. Most public meetings at that time were held in the hotel which also dates from about 1888. Other community activities included the Wellington Point Athletics Club, which asked for the road in front of the Wellington Point Hotel to be cleared as a running track in June 1890.

The Agricultural Horticultural and Industry (A H & I) Association was formed in November 1890. Those attending the initial meeting included Gilbert Burnett, James Davidson, James Pink, Alex Cowan, Percival Hiley, William Ross, Carl Ziegenfusz, W Gray, C Daveson, P Hanlon, James Baron, C Johnson, George Randall, John Cameron and John Hargreave. The committee was originally known as the Wellington Point and Cleveland A H & I, but following the success of their first show in May 1890 it was suggested that the name Cleveland be dropped from the title due to the lack of support from the Cleveland district. (The first show in Cleveland was not held until 1904.)

Wellington Point A H & I Show July and A H & I Hall in 1914, *The Queenslander* 11 July 1914. At that time, Cleveland Shire Chairman George Randall Jnr (seated in the image below) was President of the Wellington Point A H & I at that time.

This undated postcard of *The old picture theatre Wellington Point* shows a new front porch and facade as well as an extension along the side. A school building can be seen in the background.

As President of the Wellington Point A. H. & I. Association at one of its Annual Shows. "Ever ready to do his share in the service of his country."

The rivalry between Cleveland and Wellington Point was not limited to the running of the annual agricultural show. Perhaps Wellington Point residents saw themselves as the economic backbone of the region given that Cleveland was subdivided for housing rather than agriculture. While the disappointment in not gaining the seat of local government in Wellington Point was evident from 1885, by 1886 residents were lobbying for a separate division of the Cleveland Divisional Board for Wellington Point.

The rivalry was so intense that in 1887 James Pink accused Cleveland residents of being jealous of Wellington Point and of inducing the postmaster to stop the mail coach from taking the mail to Wellington Point.

Ultimately a financial division was created between Wellington Point and Cleveland, rather than a political one. By June 1887 the Wellington Point accounts were kept separately and the area was named Division II in December 1890.

Musical groups in the area included the Wellington Point Christy Minstrels, which operated from about 1891. That year fund-raising began for a School of Arts and Agricultural Museum, and the money was held in trust by Mr Pink.

In 1896, Committee President Mr J H Davidson instructed the secretary to write to Cleveland Shire Chairman Mr Pink and ask him to 'hand over' the money, and that steps would also be taken to obtain a Government subsidy to complete the project. Mr Davidson and Mr Cameron both pledged to donate a quantity of books for the School of Arts Library.

At this meeting Mr Davidson said that he *did not think the district could at present run up a School of Arts and Agricultural Museum building, and a show building for the Wellington Point A H & I Association, therefore I counsel that the two amalgamate to make one big success*.

A Progress Association was formed in 1896, chaired by Mr Isaac J Markwell. In 1897 the Wellington Point School of Arts and Agricultural Museum Committee merged with the Agricultural, Horticultural and Industry committee.

Wellington Point School and A H & I Hall, 1969.   QImagery

The A H & I Association had land adjacent to the school, and a hall was transported to this site from Coorparoo in 1897. The hall was used for local shows and community activities for many years. It survived until the early 1970s when it fell into disrepair and was demolished to make way for the pre-school, which began operation in 1975.

Health Services

Bayview Hospital

Whepstead remained an important part of community activities in Wellington Point. The Parnell family lived in the house for over 20 years and during that time annual garden parties were held in the gracious lawns.

Edgar Parnell died in 1933 and the family stayed on for a few more years before selling to nurse Ethel Dolley who established a hospital on site. Nurse Dolley had taken over the Bayview Hospital in Cleveland in February 1934 and the first reference to her moving her establishment to Wellington Point was made in June 1937.

By 1939 Matron Dolley was advertising this new hospital in the *Redland Times.* It was also called Bay View. The operating theatre was located on the ground floor adjacent to the spacious dining room and it was equipped with the 'very latest design in operating tables'. The first floor held one four bed ward and four single bed rooms and the verandahs were used in hot weather. Matron Dolley specialised in the treatment of Neurasthenia (nervous exhaustion) and utilised the latest infrared ray equipment under doctor's supervision.

Matron Dolley inside Bay View (Whepstead), in front of the marble fireplace, date unknown.   HP4513

The nurses' quarters were located on the top floor. The hospital also boasted hot and cold water in the bathrooms, a septic toilet system, electric lights, a piano and a refrigerator. Fresh milk was available from the 3 jersey cows kept on the property.

Bay View was later taken over by sisters Margaret Barr and Grace Beare who ran the property as a nursing home from about 1965 until 1973. These women were instrumental in establishing Meals on Wheels in the district, which was initially run from the hospital. With the help of the local CWA and other community groups, Meals on Wheels was set up in the old Birkdale railway station and later a kitchen and office was built in Chermside Street.

The sisters continued the Parnell's tradition of holding garden parties in the gracious gardens to raise funds. Cleveland and Victoria Point later followed. Both sisters were later recognised for their contribution to the community, with Grace Beare being the first Redland Shire Citizen of the Year in 1981 and Merle Barr receiving the same honour in 1985.   In 1977 the building was sold and when it re-opened it was a restaurant and wedding venue, Whepstead Manor.

Loma Linda Hospital, 108-124 Allenby Road

In the post war era, Dr Boyd from Wynnum established a sanatorium in an old home in Allenby Road. This property had been occupied by the Kefford family plantation during the late 1800s, and prior to the purchase by Dr Boyd, was the farm of the Moylan family. In September 1946 Dr Boyd requested that the council make Allenby Road trafficable for the new private hospital. The Hospital was called Loma Linda which is Spanish for 'hill beautiful' (it boasts almost 360 degree views of its surrounding landscapes and Moreton Bay) and was advertised as a sanatorium and hospital.

It was equipped with 'hydrotherapy and electrical apparatus for giving tonic and invigorating treatments with particular attention given to diets.' In later years it was a nursing home, with a caravan park of the same name operating across the road. The grand old white 2-storey building has been mostly demolished, and the land cleared. It is owned by the neighbouring Wellington Park Aged Care group, *Superior Care*.

20th Century Growth and Development

During the early 1930s attempts were made to extract oil in the Birkdale and Wellington Point areas. The Wellington Point Oil Wells Limited was formed and shares offered for sale in 1931 and the company mounted a display at the Cleveland Show in 1932.

Drilling on a site in Birkdale went to a depth of 3500 feet (1065m) in March 1933 but the amount of gas found led to a temporary capping of the bore. By November they reached 4000 feet (1300m) but the amount of oil found was not commercially viable.

Wellington Point oil well, 1933   HP0971

During the 1950s new businesses sprang up including a garage operated by W Mitchell. Mr Curran applied to build a fish and chip shop adjacent to the hotel. The old AH&I Hall was reopened as the Royal Theatre in October 1953 and this operated until 1971.

The tourism potential of the area had come to the fore in the post war era. In 1947 the Department of Harbours and Marine had examined the possibilities of establishing a boat harbour at both Wellington Point and Toondah Harbour.

In 1958 local resident H Lancaster revisited that proposal by writing to the Minister for Lands suggesting that the salt pans now known as the Geoff Skinner Reserve could be reclaimed and utilised for housing and general tourism activities incorporating a boat harbour. (It appeared that his motives lay in the destruction of the mangroves and the accompanying mosquito pests.)

The suggestion was taken up by local resident Reg Fairman who owned the adjoining land. He eventually prepared plans which included 2,500 house sites, shops, a picture show and a hotel.

By 1960 the proposal had evolved into a canal estate, which mirrored the development patterns of the Gold Coast of that time. This proposal included a drive-in shopping centre, community centre, churches, school reserve, marina, Olympic pool, and sporting facilities.

At that time the reserve was subject to a petroleum lease and there was a lease to a cement company seeking coral deposits. When the urban development proposal was not taken up, Fairman then proposed that the reclaimed land be used for an oil refinery and heavy industry site.

However in 1966 the Portland Cement Company was given permission to mine for coral on the reserve.

Wellington Point salt pans in 1955. They became The Geoff Skinner Environmental Reserve in 1988.   QImagery

Various combinations and permutations of these proposals were discussed through to the mid-1970s. The state government, however, was loath to rescind the category of recreation reserve. In 1988 the reserve was named the Geoff Skinner Environmental Reserve. Dredging was carried out at the end of the Wellington Point jetty in 1963/4 to improve boating access to the area.
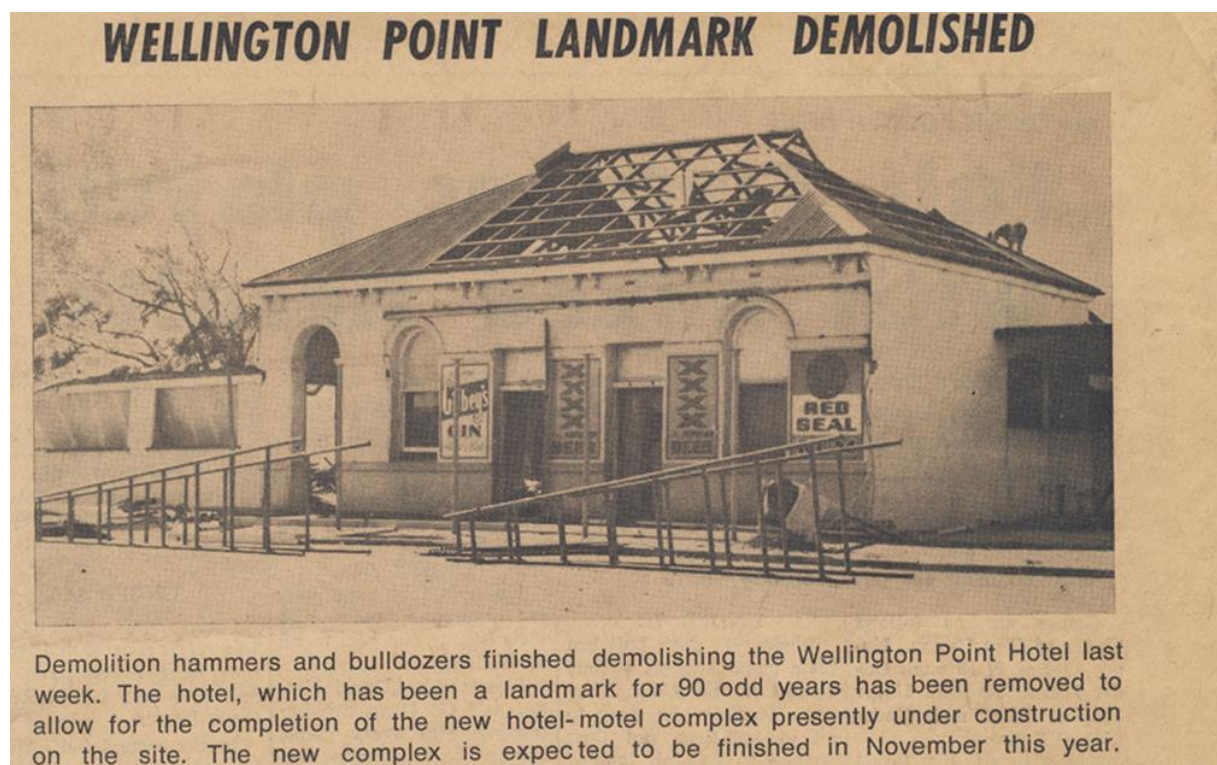
The railway closed in November 1960 not long after the Wellington Point railway overbridge was constructed. It was nearing completion in March 1959 and at that time the Methodist Church was lobbying to purchase the land adjoining the church on which the old level crossing was located. More shops were built in April 1964 by Cec Dahl.

In 1968 the Cleveland Shire Council was building a new Shire Office building on the corner of Bloomfield and Middle Streets in Cleveland, and a wing of the old building (the Shire Health Office) was offered to the Girl Guides. This was relocated and opened the following year in Chermside Street.

In September 1969 the shire's first restaurant/art gallery, *Das Kunsteir Heim*, opened in a house on the corner of Edith and Main Road, run by John and Gloria Belitz. It operated until about 1977 when there was competition from the new *Whepstead* restaurant, established in the old Bayview Hospital by the Knight and Creamer families.

Koros hardware store on the corner of Birkdale Road and the Main Road was destroyed by fire in 1970 and soon after that a new supermarket opened further along on that block.

The 90 year old Wellington Point Hotel building was demolished in 1971 to make way for the new brick structure.

WELLINGTON POINT LANDMARK DEMOLISHED

Demolition hammers and bulldozers finished demolishing the Wellington Point Hotel last week. The hotel, which has been a landmark for 90 odd years has been removed to allow for the completion of the new hotel-motel complex presently under construction on the site. The new complex is expected to be finished in November this year.

Redland Times June 1971   HP6419

*For more information, see the **Wellington Point Hotel timeline** at the end of this document.*

Similarly the old kiosk on the beach was replaced in 1979.

Demolition of the Wellington Point kiosk, 1978-79   HP1019

In 1969 the old 1886 Shire office and hall were removed to make way for a new brick building. The old Shire Hall building became the Wellington Point Guides hut in Roberts Street Wellington Point.

In 1981 the Wellington Point railway goods shed was moved to Chermside Street to be used by the Scouts. The buildings now form the Community Arts Precinct.

Work commenced on the cricketers' club complex in 1982, although the club had been in operation since 1905. It later became the Redlands Sporting Club, a multi-sport complex.

The old Methodist Church was demolished in 1984 after it had been destroyed by fire. A new brick church was constructed in Marlborough Road and was opened in April 1985.

By 1982 the Railway Department had reconstructed the rail link between Lota and Thorneside.
The section of railway between Thorneside and Wellington Point was opened in July 1986 and the final section to Cleveland was completed in October 1987. The line was electrified shortly after that.

HP1787   Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen and Redland Shire Chairman Merv Genrich at the opening of the Wellington Point Station 26 July 1986

Shops in Main Road Wellington Point, 1984   HP7325

In 1986 Wellington Point had been fully sewered. This led to further development. Merv McKell's family property was resumed to make way for the Wellington Point High School. His father Ralph had been a carrier in the district and had also farmed the land.

Ironically Merv then got a job as groundsman at the new Alexandra Hills Senior College. Both Wellington Point High School and Redlands College opened in January 1988.

As with all mainland caravan parks, the old Wellington Point Caravan Park which had opened in 1975, was closed down in the late 1980s to make way for a housing estate. This was initially to have been a canal estate, but environmental concerns led to the establishment of Sovereign Waters lake estate which began selling late in 1998.

In 1995, a movie "Flipper" starring Paul Hogan was filmed at Wellington Point, with many scenes filmed using mechanical dolphins. A 'beach house' on the eastern side of the point, south of the car park, was used as part of the movie set.

RP0453

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
- The MacArthur Museum, Edward Street, Brisbane
- Oz @ War website: Peter Dunn
- 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.

<u>Aboriginal Place names are acknowledged:</u>

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.
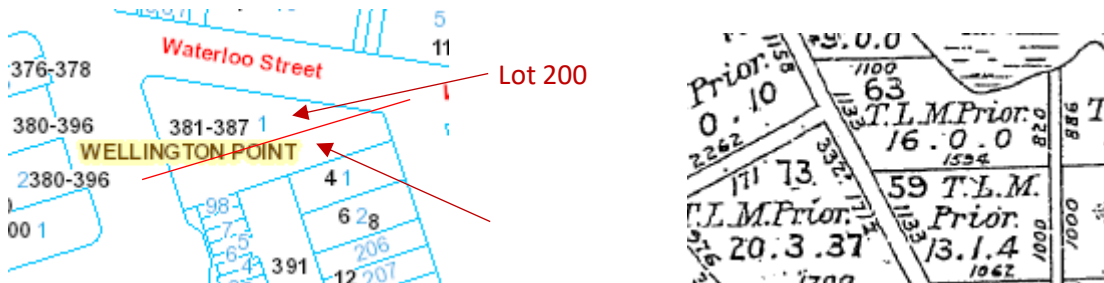
Aerial timeline

1973

QImagery

2018

Redemap

Wellington Point Hotel Timeline

The Wellington Point Hotel has had a colourful, sometimes tragic past, including depression and murder, robberies and licence breaches, as well as being the venue for many community activities, keeping it at the heart of Wellington Point history.

Owners of WP Hotel land – Portion 63 Lot 200 and Lot 199 (**now Lot 1**)

1861 – Original Deed of Grant to Thomas Lodge Murray PRIOR (all of Portion 63)

1863 – Louis HOPE (all of Portion 63)

1881 – Gilbert BURNETT (all of Portion 63)

1886 – Portion 63 subdivided: John C WILSON (Lots 199 & 200) declared insolvent 1891

1891 – William R PALFREY (Lots 199 & 200) died 1892

1892 – John A TAIT (Lots 199 & 200) died 1897

1897 - Transmission by death to William STEPHENS,
   William J HARPER & Christopher TAIT (Lots 199 & 200)

1915 – Sarah J Seeney (Lots 199 & 200)

1920 – John DONOVAN (Lots 199 & 200) died 1924

1924 - Transmission by death to Mary A Donovan & Alice V D'Arcy (Lots 199 & 200)

1926 – Alfred H WRIGHT and Victoria A WRIGHT (Lots 199 & 200)

1928 – Castlemaine Brewery & Quinlan Gray & Co / Castlemaine Perkins (Lots 199 & 200)

Between **1886** and **1964**, lease-holders of the property number in the hundreds, and are only listed on the titles deeds until the late 1920s. *Details available on request for research purposes*

Wellington Point Hotel - Newspaper snippets:

1886 -1891
John C Wilson owned the land and opened the Wellington Point Family Hotel and store. Most public meetings at that time were held in the hotel which also dates from about 1888. Other community activities included the Wellington Point Athletics Club, which asked for the road in front of the hotel to be cleared as a running track in June 1890.
From Places of the Redlands: Wellington Point by Mary Howells 2000.
https://redl.sdp.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/default/search/results?qu=places+of+the+redlands%2C+wellington+point&te=

1891
"**Mr Savage**, who only a few weeks ago took over the hotel from Mr Wilson, was playing with the little child during the afternoon, and he was then seen by two or three persons to walk along the Birkdale Road…"
See 'The Week' article 23 January 1891
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20347519?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1893-12-09|||dateTo=1893-12-09

1893
"A general meeting of the Wellington Point and Cleveland Agricultural, Horticultural, and Industrial Association was held at **Campbell's hotel**, Wellington Point, on Saturday night".
See 'Queenslander' article 9 December 1893
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20347519?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1893-12-09|||dateTo=1893-12-09

1896
A general meeting of members of the Wellington Point Agricultural, Horticultural, and Industrial Association was held at **Pyrah's hotel, Wellington Point**, on Saturday night.
See 'Brisbane Courier' article 17 February 1896
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3619325?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1896-02-17|||dateTo=1896-02-17

1897
Julia Veitch was still listed as the licensee of the Wellington Point Hotel in the Licensed Victuallers list at State Library of Qld for 1901.
See 'Brisbane Courier' article 8 April 1897
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3648668?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1897-04-08|||dateTo=1897-04-08

1905
The catering will be in the hands of **Mr Utting** of the Wellington Point Hotel. Mr Utting had previously been the licensee at the Victoria Bridge Hotel, he was married with 3 children.
See 'Brisbane Courier' article 11 July 1906 & 21 November 1907
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/19458753?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1906-07-11|||dateTo=1906-07-11
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/124237562?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=l-state=Queensland|||l-category=Advertising

1908
Mrs. Cave, licensee of the Wellington Point Hotel, was granted a permit for music and dancing on Saturday, on the occasion of the Wellington Point Show.
See 'Brisbane Courier" article 8 October 1908
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/19543586?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1908-10-08|||dateTo=1908-10-08

1911

Businessman Alexander James Lamont began subdivision of his property at the end of Wellington Point in 1911 which included Marshall and Champion Lanes. **Marshall** was one of the first purchasers of the land, a Shire Councillor and licensee of the hotel.

See 'Truth' Article 30 April 1911
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/201760754?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1911-04-30|||dateTo=1911-04-30

1915

The Police proceeded against **May Cahill**, licensee of the Wellington Point Hotel, charging her with having kept her premises open for the sale of liquor on Sunday, 7th November.

See 'Telegraph' article 7 January 1916
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/176161006?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1916-01-07|||dateTo=1916-01-07

1919

There was a drive to establish a kiosk and jetty at Wellington Point during the 1920s. The initial proposal came in February 1924 from **Mr A Wenborn**, who ran the Wellington Point Hotel.

See 'Brisbane Courier article 18 December 1919 and 'Truth' article 4 November 1923
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20398387?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1919-12-18|||dateTo=1919-12-18
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/203905167?searchTerm=wellington%20point%20hotel&searchLimits=dateFrom=1923-11-04|||dateTo=1923-11-04

1964

Bill Hogan, a veteran of the Hotel industry, bought the lease of the Wellington Point Hotel and took over as licensee on the 1st of August 1964. The family has turned the hotel at Wellington Point from a simple local pub, to a bustling mecca for the bayside area, specialising in quality meals, sports entertainment, a wide range of beer, wines and spirits as well as social functions and events.

Bill's son, Greg Hogan started working at the Wellington Point Hotel in 1969 with the family tradition being carried on in modern times by his children Scott, Vicki, Craig and Paula. Recent years have seen a massive refurbishment of the hotel to better service the needs and demand of the rapidly changing bayside area.

See website: https://www.hoganswellingtonpoint.com.au/

1964

Whepstead Timeline

Fernbourne was built in mid-1889 for Gilbert and Martha Burnett. It was designed by Claude Chambers and built by local builder Pat Horisk. Burnett only lived in the house for 2 years before selling it. At some time after that it was re-named **Whepstead**.

1889: **Fernbourne** is built for Gilbert Burnett

1891: Burnett is in liquidation and sells the house. He builds a new smaller house nearby and also names it **Fernbourne**, and the name **Whepstead** was given to the house sometime after that, but the exact date is unknown. (Whepstead is a village in England). This second Fernbourne house remains the family home for his lifetime

1891: Edward Drury, manager of the Queensland National Bank buys the first Fernbourne house (Whepstead).

1892: Drury transfers the property to his wife Barbara.

1893: Drury is accused of cavalier lending practices and he and the state Treasurer are called to give evidence the enquiry into the bank's collapse. It suspended trading on 15 May 1893.

1897: Drury dies (some say it was a hoax to escape the enquiry).

1899: James Vincent Chataway, MLA for Mackay, Minister for Public Lands and Agriculture between 1898 and April 1901. Lived in the house for some time during these years (exact dates unavailable)

1901: Chataway dies on 14 April. He is buried in Cleveland Cemetery.

1902: The O'Connell family moved in to the house.

1909: The house is known to have been called Whepstead by at least 1909 when this photograph was taken.   *John Oxley Library SLQ*

1911: Edgar Gustave Parnell and family purchase the house. Parnell was a wealthy grazier who owned property in Central Queensland and in the Kimberleys.

1933: Parnell died, followed 2 years later by his wife Isabella.

1943: Matron Ethel Dolley purchases the house and it becomes the Bayview Private Hospital.

1948: Merle Barr and Grace Beare purchase the property and continue to run it as a convalescent home and private hospital. They are later instrumental in bringing Meals on Wheels to the district.

1977: Hazel and Jim Knight and their daughter Dianne Creamer and her husband Ron, buy the property and begin to restore and turn it into a restaurant and function centre **Whepstead Manor**.

2012: The smaller Fernbourne House is destroyed by fire.

2019: **Whepstead** is owned by Pacific Palms Pty Ltd. It has been renovated and extended, and operates as a function centre.

Wellington Point Kiosk Timeline

c1925 – A simple rotunda, facing eastern side of the reserve

Mid-late 1920s – the eastern rotunda (timber on ground to the right possibly from clearing for new extensions to be added to the building).

Late 1920s – The original eastern rotunda (half out of picture on left) the new central room and new western rotunda. Dances were held in the central room, sometimes in breach of the law.

1931 – The new western rotunda, beach huts on the right.

1939 – The western rotunda and a small extension behind it.

1946 – The western beach (and Ives family, who owned the house on the hill behind the kiosk) and western rotunda in background. Council called tenders in 1946 for a new beach stall, and the Clara Galloway won the tender. Tom Galloway and Fred Kratzmann kept the original eastern rotunda, demolished the newer western rotunda and possibly the central building too, and replaced them in 1947 with a new extension built from old army huts that they brought from Canungra.

1960s – The 1947 extension, the original eastern rotunda is on the far left obscured by the tree.

1960s – The eastern rotunda and the 1947 extension. It supplied campers with hot water and more.

1978-79 – demolition of the original 1920s eastern rotunda.

1978-79 – demolition of the 1947 extension.

1980s – A new 2 storey building replaced the kiosk; western side

2019 - *Point of View* café and restaurant from the western side.

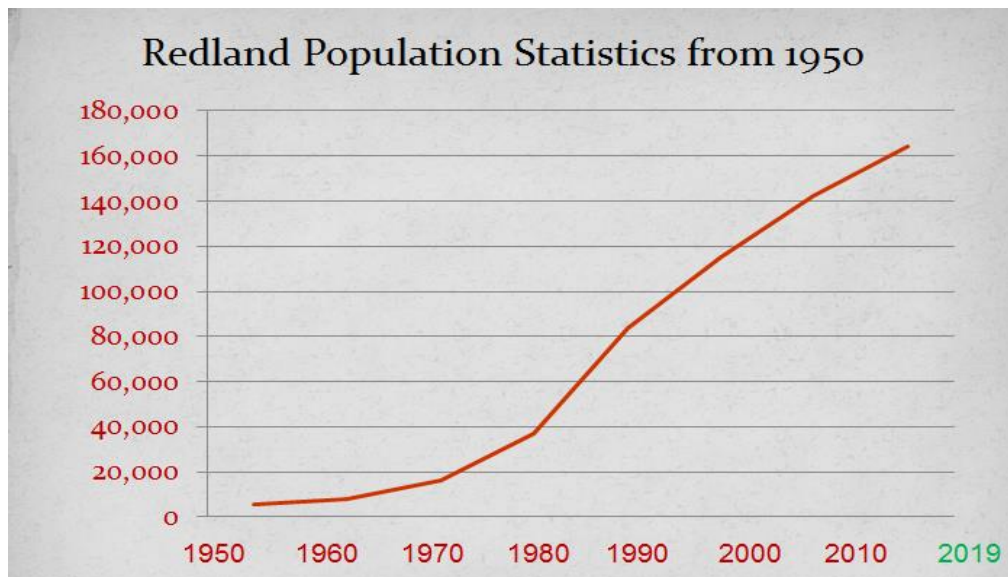**1990s** – *Point of View* café and restaurant from eastern side.

2019 - *Point of View* café and restaurant from the eastern side.

Images from Local History collection

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.

Redland Population Statistics from 1950

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.
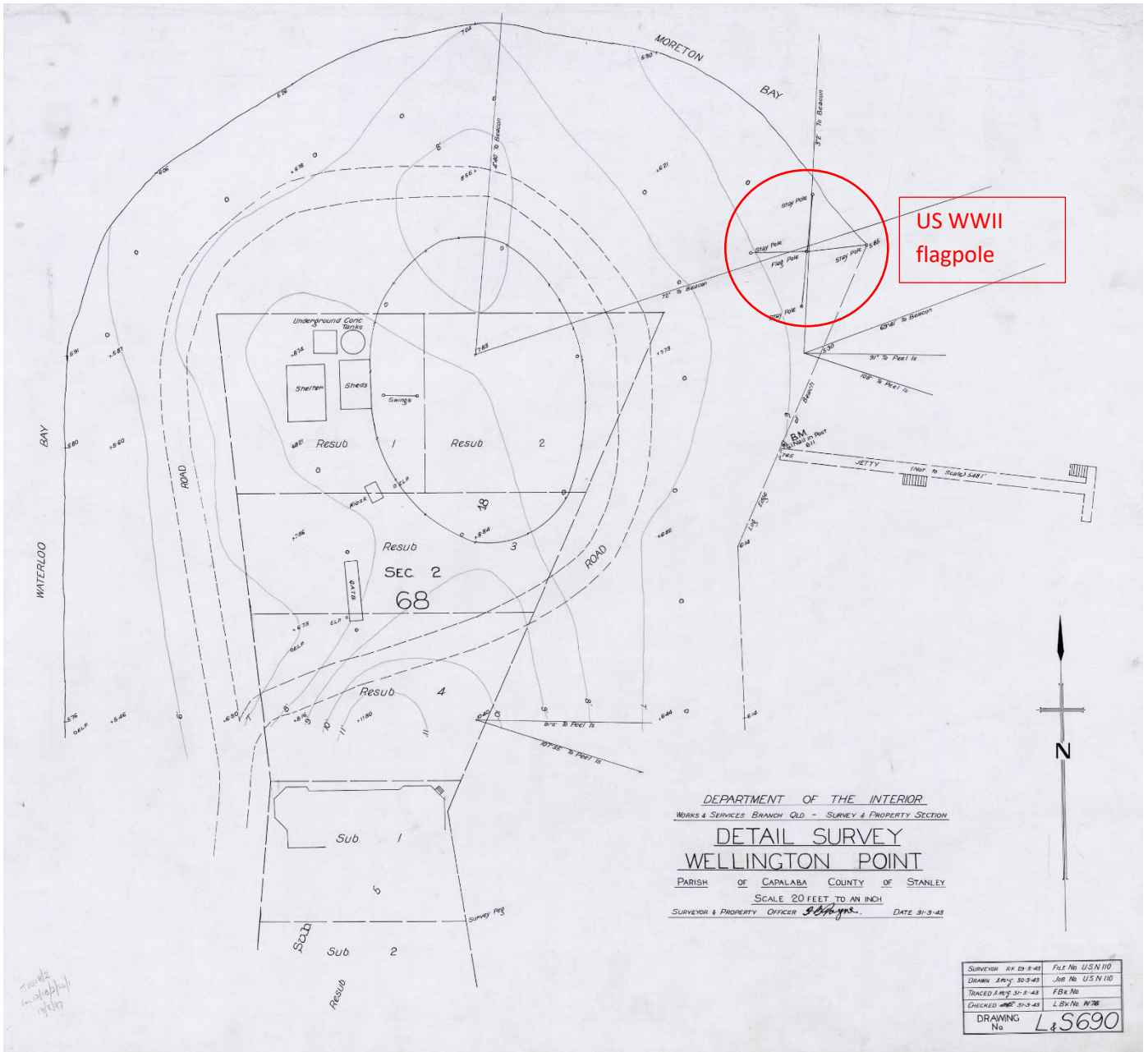
WWII Snippets

From its shape in the 1943 plan below, the QATB First Aid post on the plan looks to be something similar to this one at VP Reserve, ie an old railway carriage.

They came from Wynnum QATB and were used during the popular camping periods.

1941

NAA: J1018, LS690

US WWII flagpole

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WORKS & SERVICES BRANCH QLD. - SURVEY & PROPERTY SECTION

DETAIL SURVEY
WELLINGTON POINT
PARISH OF CAPALABA COUNTY OF STANLEY
SCALE 20 FEET TO AN INCH
SURVEYOR & PROPERTY OFFICER _____. DATE 31-3-43

SURVEYOR RK 29-5-43	FILE No USN 110
DRAWN SMH 30-3-43	Job No U.S.N 110
TRACED SMH 31-3-43	FBx No
CHECKED 31-3-43	LBx No N°76
DRAWING No	L&S690

30G16   -1- DEC.

111936

569/216/1436

DEPT. OF THE NAVY

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Property Manager,
    Commonwealth Disposals Commission,
      125 Swanston Street,
      MELBOURNE. C.1.

WELLINGTON POINT, QLD. - U.S. NAVY A/A SCHOOL.

      With reference to memorandum C.D.C. 2892 dated
27th November, 1945, requesting information concerning the
authority to dispose of the Wellington Point U.S.N. A/A School,
it is advised that approval has been given for the disposal of
this installation.

Secretary.

30 NOV 1945

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
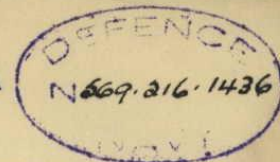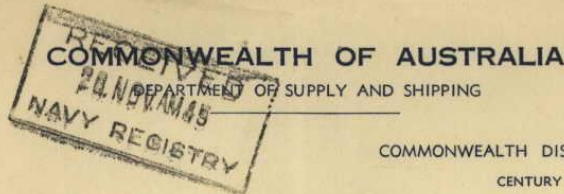DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SHIPPING

TELEPHONE: F 9411
TELEGRAMS: "DISPOSALS"

DC:ES.

In Reply Quote C.D.C. 2892.

N 669.216.1436

COMMONWEALTH DISPOSALS COMMISSION,
CENTURY BUILDING,
125 SWANSTON STREET,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

27th November, 1945.

Secretary,
 Department of the Navy,
  MELBOURNE. S.C.1.

            WELLINGTON POINT, QUEENSLAND
            U.S. NAVY - A.A. SCHOOL.

1.   Advice has been received from the Regional
Manager, Commonwealth Disposals Commission, at Brisbane,
stating the abovementioned property is available for
disposal and that Lt. Commander BOWDEN has approval of
your Department to dispose of this property .

2.   No information exists at this Office in regard
to the disposal of the property, and as all necessary
action has been taken to auction the installation at
Wellington Point, it would be appreciated if urgent advice
could be furnished to this Commission as to whether approval
of your Department has been given to the disposal.

                                    (M. Fizelle)
                                    Property Manager.

Q3c/2/H/7=12

TELEPHONES :
MXY 440.
CENTRAL 7185.

No.........................

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

MELBOURNE, S.C.1.

28 DEC 1944

Secretary,
Department of the Navy.

RELEASE OF U.S.INSTALLATIONS : NAVY : WELLINGTON
POINT RESERVE, COLONIAL MUTUAL BLDGS : QUEENSLAND
AHS NOS. 3098, 3485.

    Forwarded herewith is copy of USAFFE memorandum of
2nd December, 1944, together with relevant schedules relating
to the release of the above installations.

    2.   It is presumed that you will take the necessary
action in accordance with the procedure prescribed in R.L.L.
Circular No.10 as amplified in LHQ 135309 of 28th September,
1944.

(F. R. Sinclair)
S e c r e t a r y.

Copies to:
Brig.-Gen.P.W.Johnston,
General Purchasing Agent,USA,
A.P.O. 924.

H.Q. Q'land L of C Area

J.A.P.S.C.

D. of Hirings.

15 JAN 1945

Pls check on various advices.
Are we paying rental? Obtain
copies of comms. referred to in
para.2 and discuss.

HEADQUARTERS,

UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST.

Office of the General Purchasing Agent.

A.P.O. 9 2 4.

2 December, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO:

Q.M.G., L.H.Q.,
Victoria Barracks,
MELBOURNE. S.C.1.

Subject: Release U.S. Navy Installations.

1.   As provided in G.P.A. Regulations 25-20, 9 September, 1944, forwarded herewith are two copies of U.S. Navy Real Estate Form, advising of release of: -

✓ (a) Colonial Mutual Building, Brisbane - A.H.S. USNO 12 41
       No. 3098.   54/214/729.

✓ (b) Wellington Point, Reserve (part), Queensland - 11 24 916
       A.H.S. No. 3485.

2.   The effective dates for release are 15 and 21 November, 1944, respectively.

(Signed)

P. W. JOHNSTON,
Brig.-General, USA,
General Purchasing Agent.

Incls: (2) as ind.

25.

Airstrips had to be built on tidal flats; on areas reclaimed from mangrove mud swamps where levee banks had to be built to keep out the sea and floodgates to control drainage after torrential tropical downpours.

One airfield is a natural coral reef and others have been located on what are known as claypans.

Some spectacular drainage jobs have been done; creeks have been diverted; one diversion drain which had to be built is 200 feet wide and several feet deep.

I feel that I could not conclude my talk on the construction of the aerodromes without paying a tribute to the workmen who have carried out the actual work in the field, often under the most trying conditions. They have done a great job.

Altogether, the completion of the airfield construction programme of such magnitude, under the conditions and difficulties that had to be faced and overcome, in such a short space of time, has been a national achievement of which Australia may well be proud.

As well as playing a most vital part in saving Australia from invasion by the enemy, it has been a wonderful thing for the Nation in many other respects. It has opened up the remarkable outback, and provided facilities, which would not normally have been provided in half a century of peacetime development.

I think it goes without saying that the aerodromes constructed by the Allied Works Council throughout the Commonwealth over the last 2½ years will play a most vital and important part in the future progress and development of Australia.

Page 84

MP150/1	569/216/1479	Lease of Wellington Point Reserve, Queensland by United States Navy	1943 - 1946		5786231	
		Access status: Open	Location: Melbourne			
MP150/1	569/227/121	Message from NOIC [Naval Officer in Charge] Brisbane, regarding availability of accommodation at Wellington Point	1944 - 1944		5937956	
		Access status: Open	Location: Melbourne			
J558	PQ237-19-1993-1	Wellington Point Post Office Agency	1944 - 1993		6297569	
		Access status: Open with exception	Location: Brisbane			
J3111	WELLINGTON POINT	Post office history file - Wellington Point - includes photographs	1904 - 1978		5052233	
		Access status: Open	Location: Brisbane			