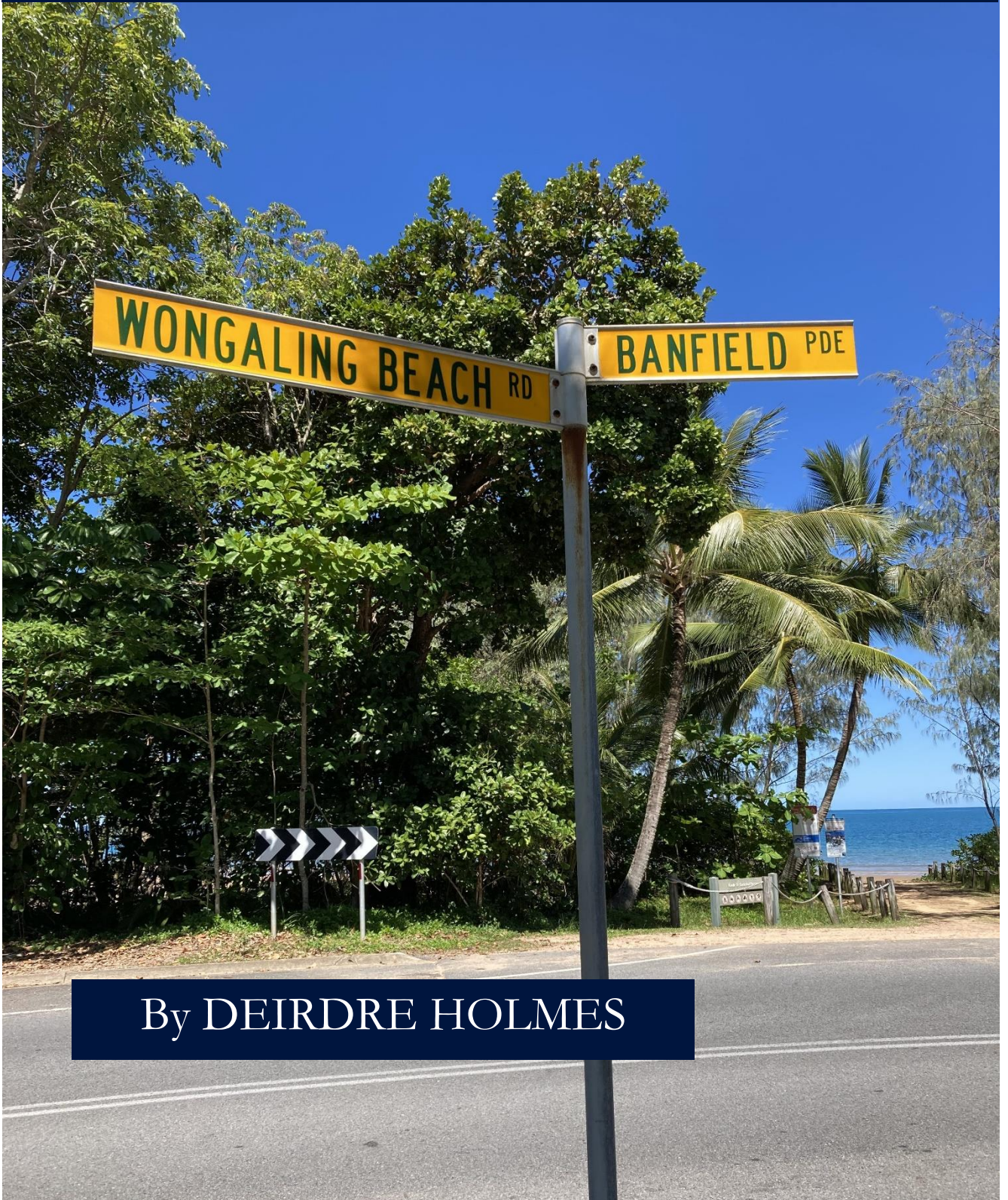


MISSION BEACH STREET & PLACE NAMES

A Study of Local History Through Street & Place Names



By DEIRDRE HOLMES

VOLUME 3: WONGALING BEACH

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Histories published by Mission Beach Historical Society are as accurate as we can make them. Few accounts of history are 100% correct and there are going to be more errors when we recall events from many years ago. We always welcome suggested edits and additions or deletions and where possible we will edit where we find we are in error. However, the oral histories we record are the words of the people we interview and we can only alter those with the authorisation of the people we interview. At times we record the full story and have it on record for research purposes yet publish an abbreviated version as well on the web page to make it more readable and relevant to our regular audience.

We have split this history into four parts:

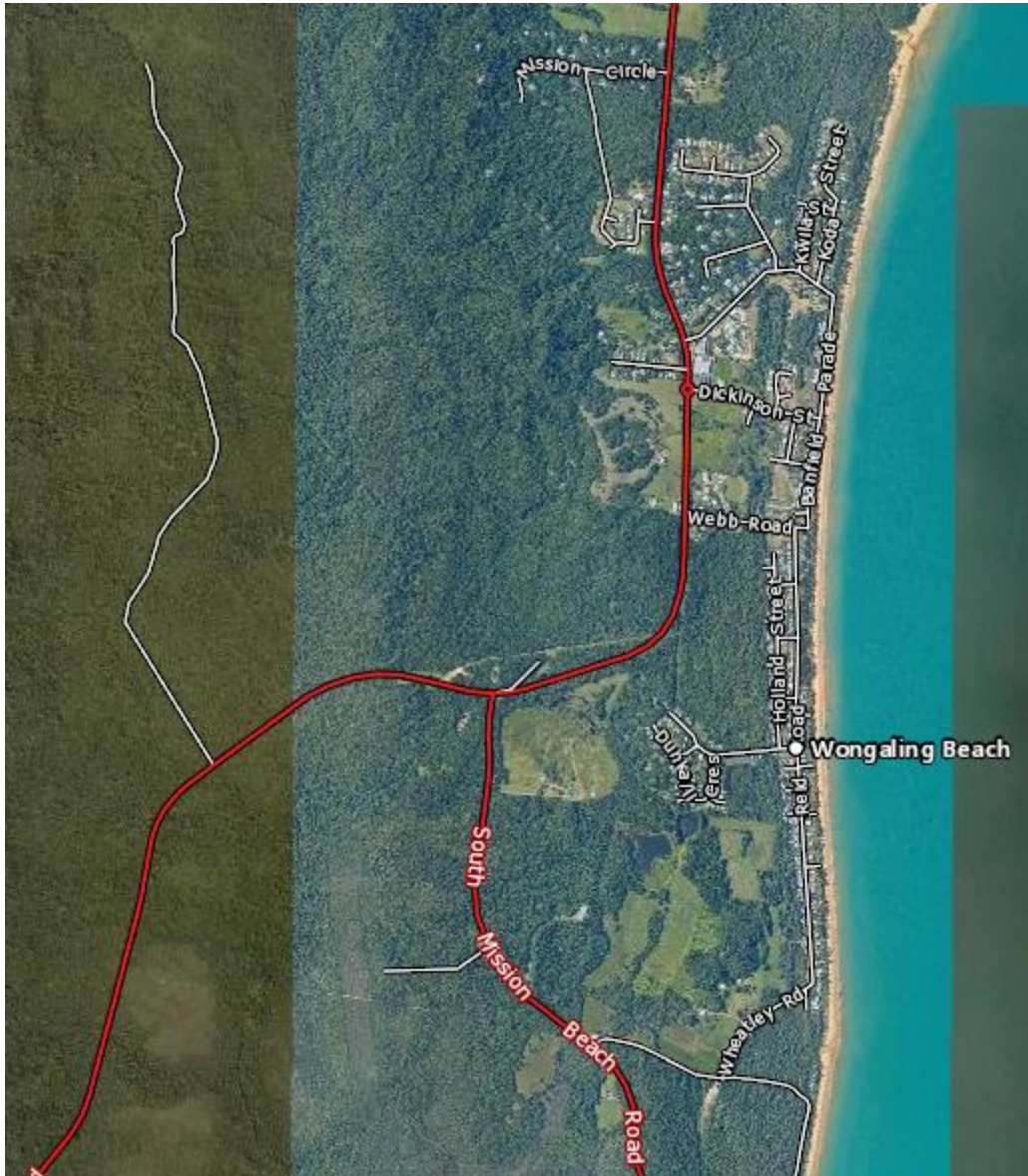
Volume 1: Maria Creeks, Midgeree Bar, Garners Beach, Bingil Bay & Narragon Beach

Volume 2: Mission Beach

Volume 3: Wongaling Beach

Volume 4: South Mission Beach & Carmoo.

Mission Beach is a town of 4,055 residents (2021 Census). It includes a number of villages separated by small tracts of forest that fringe the many beaches of the area. Volume 3 of this Place & Street Names history covers the village of Wongaling Beach. A *Queensland Globe Map* shows the area involved starting at Mission Circle in the north and ending at Wheatley Road to the south.



VILLAGE: WONGALING BEACH



WONGALING BEACH RD

WONGALING CREEK

The origin of the name *Wongaling* was thought to be an Aboriginal word for home of Wompoo pigeon. Wompoo pigeons were attracted to the white cedar trees that were once common in the area. However, *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* in 1913 published an article submitted by Edmund Banfield where he wrote of a creek, two miles south of Clump Point, which the local tribe called Wong-aling. In one of the many dialects of the area, the Wong-aling was also the name for a black-lip pearl shell, a mollusc that lived on coral reefs and not in saltwater creeks. Upon inspection, he found huge amounts of discarded shells half a mile up the creek which had obviously been taken there by the original residents over many, many years.

Djiru Elders today refute both these suggestions. *Wongaling* in fact is the Djiru word for the Superb Fruit Dove or the Purple-crowned Fruit Dove (right). The Superb Fruit Dove feeds mostly on fruits and berries and is found from southern New South Wales to Cape York in Queensland.

Wongaling Creek is officially named as such with signage stating so on the bridge, but locals still often refer to it as Porters Creek as it went through the original Porter selections. The name Wongaling was gazetted on 26 February 1966.



References & Reading

1953 *Mission Beach State School 2003, 50th Anniversary*, Bookman Publishers, 2003, P. 17.

E. J. Banfield, *Rural Homilies (by the Beachcomber)*, *Wong-aling*, *Townsville Daily Bulletin*, 11 October 1913, accessed on Trove Oral History provided by Leonard Andy (Traditional Owner, Djiru Country)

Wikipedia

Image © copyright Susan Kelly, Natural Images

ALFRISTON ST

At the end of the 1960s and early 70s, (Samuel) Keith Hattam established the Crown Estate Development. This development ran parallel to Wongaling Beach. The name *Wongaling Beach* was now becoming popular when referring to this area. Mr Hattam liked it so much that he then marketed his land development as *Wongaling Beach Estate*. Alfriston Street was part of this. There is no record of why this street was called Alfriston.

References & Reading

Peter Kellett, Cassowary Coast News

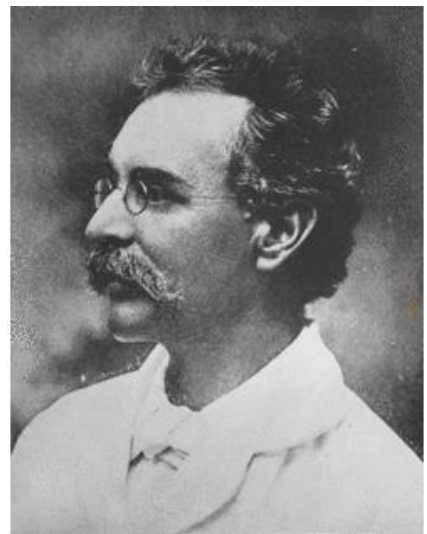
AQUATIC AVE

Named by developers with a nautical theme.

BANFIELD PDE

Named after notable Dunk Island author, Edmund James Banfield. Born in England in 1852, he came to Australia as a child and arrived in Townsville in 1882 to become the sub-editor of the *Townsville Daily Bulletin*. As a boy, he sustained a critical injury to an eye in a bicycle accident in Ararat, Victoria. The eye socket never healed properly and he returned to England in 1883 to have his eye removed. After the operation, he returned to Liverpool to visit his mother's neighbour and pen pal, Eleanor Golding. There he met Bertha Golding and after a whirlwind romance, they were married in 1886 in Townsville. They first visited Dunk Island in September 1896.

After 15 years with the paper, Ted Banfield was near to having a nervous breakdown and wanted to get away from it all. In September 1897, he and Bertha moved to Dunk Island permanently. It was here



he became an avid naturalist, keeping a diary of his nature observations which he would refer to when writing his many articles and books. He wrote four books and over four hundred essays that were published as *Rural Homilies* in newspapers. *Confessions of a Beachcomber* is Banfield's most remembered publication.

In his many publications, Ted Banfield left our district with a mass of valuable recollections so while his writing was essentially autobiographical and the

books were novels, he wrote much of our history, especially in his *Rural Homilies*. The Banfields were living on a remote location, but they were far from being reclusive and, during their lives, they formed close friendships with many people from all parts of the world. Many well-known people visited them on the island. He was close to Robert Philp who became Queensland's Premier and to Hollis Hopkins, a wealthy mercer from Townsville who owned a large selection that included Tam O'Shanter Point*. Ted Banfield was a strong North Queensland separatist, a persistent advocate for Mission Beach farmers and Aboriginal people and an effective bird conservation activist as well.

The Banfields are among our most notable early settlers and were close to the Cutten* family and many of the settlers on the mainland, including the Porter* brothers, George Webb*, Benjamin Beaman* and Rupert Fenby*.

Ted Banfield died from peritonitis on 2 June 1923. Bertha Banfield stayed on for a few more years before moving to Brisbane and passed away in 1933.



Banfield with the Cutten Family, 1917



Bertha Banfield

References & Reading

- Michael Noonan, *A Different Drummer: The Story of E. J. Banfield, Beachcomber of Dunk Island*, UQ Press, 1983.
 Ken Gray, *The Banfields of Dunk Island*, Mission Beach Historical Society, S001, 2022.
 Dorothy Jones, *Cardwell Shire Story*, Jacaranda Press, Brisbane, 1961, P. 313.
 James G. Porter, *A Family of Islands: Dunk and Bedarra Island group, North Queensland*, Boolarong Press, 2000, PP. 32-47.
 Wikipedia.

Image of Edward Banfield from National Library of Australia

Image of Bertha Banfield, A. H. Chisolm Papers, Mitchell Library.

Image from John Oxley Library

*Refer Cutten Street, Bingil Bay

*Refer Porter Promenade, Mission Beach

*Refer Fenby Gap, Mission Beach

*Refer Beaman Street, Wongaling Beach

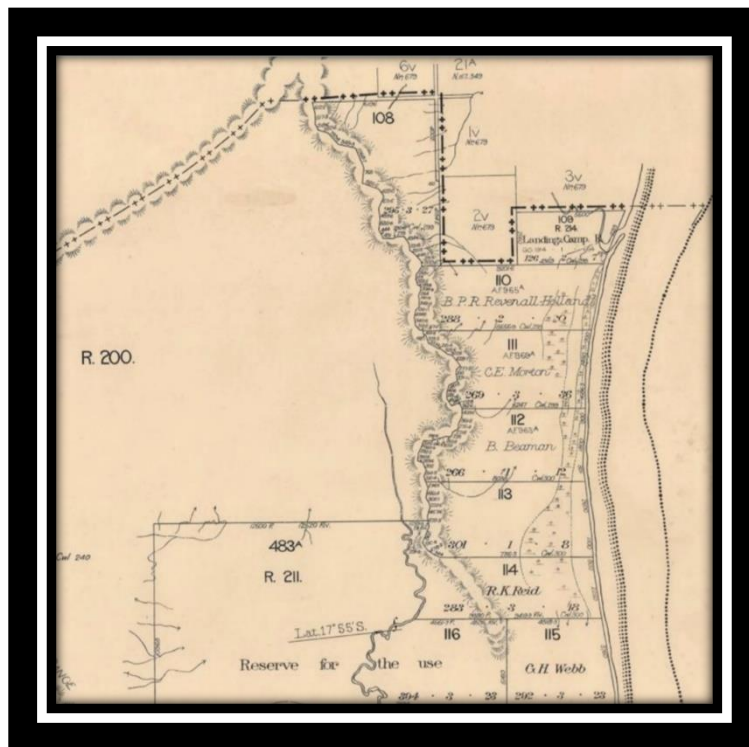
*Refer Webb Road, Wongaling Beach

*Refer Tam O'Shanter Point, South Mission Beach

BEAMAN ST

Benjamin Beaman (1872-1932) grew up in Hereford, England and migrated to Townsville in 1901. He initially worked as a hairdresser in Ingham and then Chillagoe. The Beaman family appear on all the electoral rolls as living in Chillagoe at the same time as Dick and Lily Porter*. In March 1914, he selected a land parcel, Portion 112, at the yet-to-be named Wongaling Beach. The land was adjacent to Charles Morton's* block. The family moved from Ingham to live on the property that year. Beaman grew bananas and citrus and like the other farmers in the area, rowed his fruit to Dunk Island to be collected for the southern markets.

Unfortunately, with the outbreak of World War I, shipping stopped, so no fruit could be sent south. The Beamans abandoned the farm and returned to Ingham. They were not living on the property when the 1918 cyclone struck. By 1921, they had returned to the property. In 1928, he purchased David Reid's* original block Portion 113, which was next door. Beaman died suddenly after a short illness on the 29th of May 1932 and was buried on his selection.



Benjamin Beaman's land, Portion 111

References & Reading

Australia, Electoral Rolls 1903-1980

Trove

Constance Mackness MBE, *Clump Point & District: An Historical Record*, G. K. Bolton, Cairns, 1970, P. 22.

Parish of Rockingham Map, Survey Office, Brisbane, 1923

*Refer Porter Promenade, Mission Beach

* Refer Moreton Street, Wongaling Beach

* Refer Reid Road, Wongaling Beach

BUNTING ST

BUNTINGS LANDING

BUNTINGS CREEK



John Bunting (1859-1944) was a timber getter on the Hull River area in 1907. He used both bullock and horse teams to haul the logs and cut paths through the scrub. His son Jack (1892-1970) worked alongside his father. John's daughter, Maude, married fellow timber cutter, Chris Wildsoet* in 1910. Young Jack worked as a horse driver around Muff Creek. It was probably here that he met Florence (nee Cutten*) and Charles Alexander's* daughter, Margaret (left), whom he married in 1919. From 1925 until 1945, Jack worked again as a timber getter. Oak Landing at the North Hull River was renamed Bunting's Landing.



Bunting Creek at South Mission Beach is also named after Jack Bunting and Sugarcane Creek, west of Carmoo*, was named after a small patch of cane he grew to feed his horses. He also ran cattle. Jack passed away in Charters Towers in 1970.



Maude (nee Bunting) & Chris Wildsoet, circa 1960s

References & Reading

Constance Mackness MBE, *Clump Point & District: An Historical Record*, G. K. Bolton, Cairns, 1970, P. 37.

Ancestry.com.au

Ken Gray, *Bicton: The Cuttens of Clump Point*, Mission Beach Historical Society, H005, 2022, PP. 43-46, 70,

*Refer Wildsoet Street, Wongaling Beach

*Refer Cutten Street, Bingil Bay

*Refer Alexander Drive, Bingil Bay

*Refer Carmoo, Carmoo

Cassowary Coast Libraries

CARRINGTON DRV

Origin unknown. Given by the developers of the Mission Hills Estate early in the 1990s

CASSOWARY DRV



The tourist drive which is part of the Tully-Mission Beach Road named after the iconic Cassowary, a large, endangered flightless bird. The Southern Cassowary is native to the far North Queensland rainforests. They are a keystone species of these rainforests as they eat fallen fruit and pass the seeds through their droppings. The female lays between two to eight large eggs but it is the male that incubates the eggs and raises the chicks.

References & Reading

Wikipedia

Image Courtesy of Warren Giffin

COOLIBAH ST



The Coolabah tree (left) is a species called, *Eucalyptus coolabah*, (sometimes spelled coolibah). It is located inland in many states of Australia. The most well-known example of the tree is *The Dig Tree* at Hughenden which was famously blazed by explorers on two expeditions searching for Burke and Wills. The lyrics of *Waltzing Matilda* include the Coolabah tree.

References & Reading

Outback Queensland, Historic Coolabah Tree

COVE CRT

Located in the Mission Shores Estate. Named by developers for its Gold Coast connotations.

DICKINSON ST

Charles Dickinson was Chairman (Mayor) of the Cardwell Shire Council from 1943 to 1954. He was born in 1899 in New South Wales and had moved to Feluga by 1930. Charles worked all his life as a labourer. In the mid-1930s, he and his family moved to Tully where he lived and worked until his death in 1974.

In the 1979 minutes book from the Cardwell Shire Council, it was noted that a vote was taken to utilize the name Dickinson on any unnamed streets in the Shire.



Unveiling the Kennedy Memorial Cairn, South Mission Beach 1948

Charles Dickinson, Mr D A O'Brien (Honorary Secretary, QLD branch, Royal Geographical Society),

Mrs O'Brien, Ron Flegler, Mrs Dickinson.

References & Reading

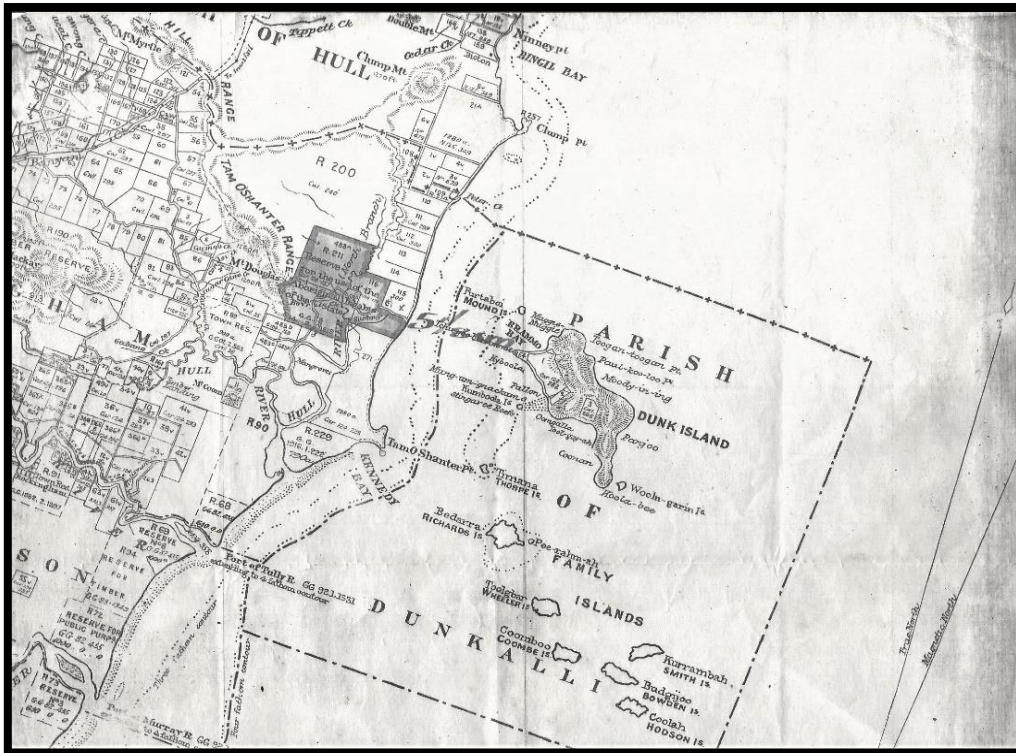
Ancestry.com.au

Extract from Cardwell Shire Council Minutes 1979.

Cassowary Coast Libraries

DUNKALLI CRES

Dunkalli Crescent was named by the developers of Mission Hills Estate, after the cadastral map of the Parish of Dunkalli, which includes the Family Islands, and still exists today.



The Parish of Dunkalli.

References & Reading

Oral history by the author.

DUNLOP ST

Scottish immigrant, Alec (Alick) Dunlop (1876-1959) arrived in 1916 to farm on the Banyan. This proved difficult, so he acquired a good team of horses and the only dray on the Banyan and started carting timber. He then purchased a selection that was the former 'Mission' site at South Mission in 1920. He ran horses and cattle on it but lived in Banyan (Tully).

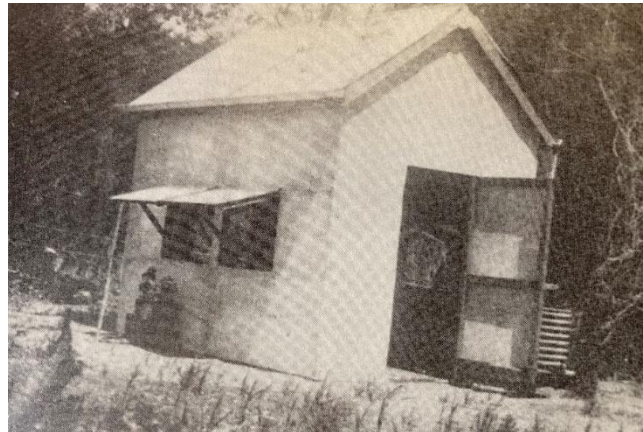
Alec married widow, Mary Hansen (1893-1967), in 1923 who had three sons Albert, Max and Eric. He spent more time farming at his South Mission Beach property but continued to live in Banyan. Soon he bought Charles Morton's abandoned block, Portion 111, roughly located where the Mission Beach Resort is now. He cleared 30 acres and planted sugar cane, paspalum, and molasses grass for fattening up cattle. In 1932, the family moved to Wongaling, where he built a home with his stepsons for his young family. They had the first attempt at dairy farming in the area and by 1933 there were 30 acres of grass pasture established with a herd of prize-winning Australian Illawarra Shorthorn heifers from Malanda. The Dunlops had hopes of opening Tully and surrounds as a significant dairy centre in

conjunction with the Silkwood Butter Factory. The lack of roads in the area for transport made this near impossible.

They started the first (private) school in the area where Bali Hai now stands. The Dunlops and George and Lillian Webb* hired various teachers or governesses for the three young Dunlop children, Alex, Bill and Mary and Elizabeth Webb (left) - George and Lillian's daughter. Little Bill was struck with appendicitis in November 1935 and had to be taken to Tully along an old dray road. By the time he was operated on it was too late.



Mrs Sides (teacher/governess) and children, 1934



Dunlops private school building 1934

In 1936, the family moved to Proserpine to continue cane farming. By 1941, the family returned to El Arish and Mary's sons Max and Eric Hansen were fighting overseas. Max lost a leg in Tobruk. Eric was one of thirteen soldiers who volunteered to stay behind while the rest of his unit evacuated from Timor in 1943. With 13 Australian soldiers against 30,000 Japanese, it was indeed a miracle that Eric returned home. Max and Eric returned to Proserpine in 1943 to a cane farm with their other brother Albert.

Alex and Mary, with their son Alex, by 1949 had settled and were farming in Feluga. They continued to live there until Alex passed away in 1959 and Mary in 1969.

References & Reading

Constance Mackness MBE, *Clump Point & District: An Historical Record*, G. K. Bolton, Cairns, 1970, PP. 39, 40,59

1953 Mission Beach State School 2003, 50th Anniversary, Bookman Publishers, 2003, P. 8.

Australia, Electoral Rolls 1903-1980

Trove

*Refer Webb Road, Wongaling Beach

GIUFRE CRES

Sam (Salvatore) Giufre was born in Sicily on the 24th of April 1915. As a young boy, he migrated to Australia to work cutting cane on farms around Euramo, Tully, and Silkwood. He was nationalized in 1939. He worked hard and eventually bought a cane farm at Euramo. He married Mary (Maria) Pappalardo (1924 - 2022), also from Sicily. By the late 1940s, he established *Giufre's Arcade* in Edith Street, Innisfail, which sold everything from toys, crockery, refrigerators, kitchen, lounge and dining room suites, Limonium, window blinds and had a drapery. Sam opened his own furniture factory in Wangan and sold hand-crafted furniture and cane ware through his stores in Tully, Innisfail and Milla Milla.

In 1966 he purchased 264 acres off Keith Haack and land that belonged to Vince Huttley around where McNamara Street is today. His property straddled both sides of what was then a dirt track. It went from where the Mission Beach State School now stands to where the Woolworths development is today and back over the hill. Sam called his new property *Wongaling Station*. He grazed Brahmans, Herefords and finally Santa Gertrudis. He was approached by Paul Sabadina to open some land up on the hill. In 1983 the development which is now Giufre Crescent was completed.



Mary (Maria), Vince, Sam (Salvatore), Sam and Jean (Concettina) Giufre

Sam and Mary left north Queensland and moved to Brisbane to pursue more business ventures. Sam passed away in 1998. Their youngest son, Sam Jnr, instigated the Woolworths Development Site which Mary returned to open in 2008.

References & Reading

Oral history provided by Sam Giufre
Oral history provided by Eric Haack
Oral history provided by Paul Sabadina
Trove
Image courtesy of Giufre Family

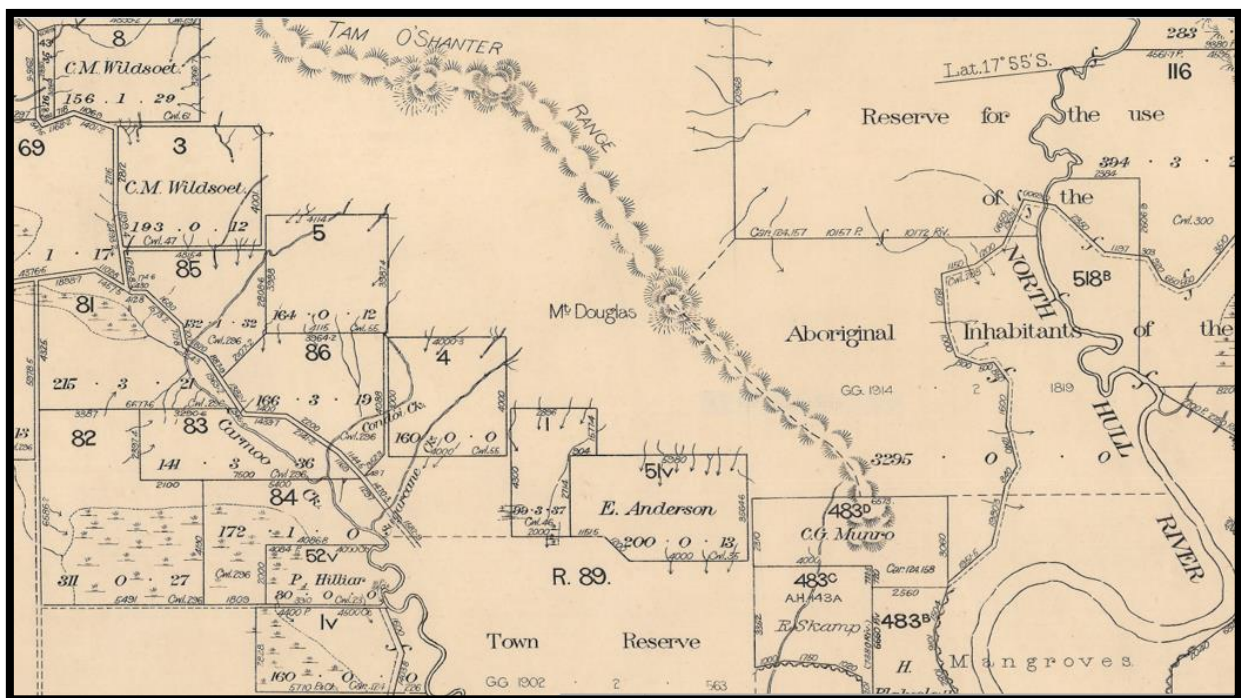


HILLIAR RD

Gilbert John Hilliar or Hillier (1866-1920) was born in England and arrived in Australia in 1888 to work on the Goondi sugar cane plantations. In 1893 he commenced farming at Bedford Creek which is just north of the mouth of the Murray River.

He married Penuel Smith Wildsoet* (1854-1934) in 1895 and had a daughter Amy. Penuel was the widow of Marcus Wildsoet (1846-1894) and already had six children. He and Penuel ran the Post Office for the district until around 1913 when they moved to Lower Tully to continue cane farming. Gilbert died in Townsville from a chronic tropical disease called *Sprue* which is closely related to celiac disease.

Penuel passed away in Tully aged 80.



Land owned by P. Hilliar, Lot 52v on Carmoo Creek.

References & Reading

Ancestry.com.au

Australia, Electoral Rolls 1903-1980

Parish of Rockingham Map, Survey Office, Brisbane, 1923

*Refer Wildsoet Street, Wongaling Beach

HOLLANDST

Bernard Percival Romer Revenall-Holland was born in Auckland in 1878. He purchased Portion 110 in April 1914 which was just south of Porter's Creek. He did not live on the property.

He joined the Australian Imperial Forces in 1914 where he attained the rank of Lieutenant. He served in France but after various incidences, his commanding officer demanded he be immediately discharged citing him unfit to command. He returned to Brisbane in 1918 and unsuccessfully ran in the State Election for the National Party. He then moved to Townsville where he became involved in public protests by the Meat Workers Union and returned servicemen. He was prosecuted many times, once for going armed in public and causing fear. He was stabbed by fellow workers at another rally. He moved to Macknade (Ingham) in 1925 and worked as a sugar labourer.

He married Lilian Wallace and in July 1926, the couple went to Mission Beach where Holland worked his selection. This lasted for only six months. They then resided in Tully until Lilian left in 1932 on account of ill-treatment where she was admitted to the Cairns General Hospital and then the Brisbane Hospital. Lilian filed for divorce in 1940 on the grounds of desertion. Renevall- Holland left for Brisbane shortly after and died there in 1944.

References & Reading

Australia, Electoral Rolls 1903-1980
Ancestry.com.au
Trove

KEOUGHST

Possibly named after *Yankee Dan* Keough or Keogh who around 1882, was one of the earliest selectors on the Hull with 160 acres. The Hull River made a good port as they could get produce out on the high tides. Keough cleared land on his river frontage and planted bananas.

References & Reading

Constance Mackness MBE, *Clump Point & District: An Historical Record*, G. K. Bolton, Cairns, 1970, P. 37.



KINGFISHER^{CRT}

Located in Rainforest Estate. Named after the brightly coloured bird found in the tropical regions of Australia, Africa, Asia and Oceania. There are 10 species of Kingfisher endemic to Australia and three of the species commonly seen in Mission Beach are the Kookaburra, Azure Kingfisher and Forest Kingfisher (left).

References & Reading

Wikipedia

Madeleine Van Der Linden, *Australia's Fabulous Kingfishers*,
Australian Geographic, 2016,

KODA ST



Fruit of a Koda tree.

Known as Koda in Australia, *Ehretia acuminata* is a common tree found in a range from near Bega in southeast New South Wales to the Atherton Tablelands in north Queensland. They also grow in New Guinea and parts of Asia. The timber is suitable for flooring and cabinet making.

References & Reading

Wendy Cooper, illustrated by William T. Cooper, *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*, Nokomis Editions, Melbourne, 2004, P. 94.

Wikipedia

KOOTOOLOO ^{CL}

This is not a Djiru word. It may have been named by different Aboriginal people in the area or misspelt. *Kootaloo* is the highest peak on Dunk Island.

Reference & Reading

Oral History provided by Leonard Andy, Djiru Elder

KURRAJONG ^{CL}

The kurrajong is a small to medium-sized tree found naturally in Australia in a diversity of habitats from wetter coastal districts to semi-arid interiors of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. It is sometimes referred to as a bottle tree. The species most referred to as a Kurrajong is *Brachybiton populneus* does not grow here but it is related to our local flame tree (*Brachybiton acerifolius*) which was the emblem of the Cardwell Shire.



Kurrajong tree with bottle-shaped trunk.

References & Reading

Wendy Cooper, illustrated by William T. Cooper, *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*, Nokomis Editions, Melbourne, 2004, PP. 527-530.

Wikipedia

KWILA ST

Kwila is a durable and termite-resistant wood, making it a highly valued timber for flooring and decking. This one species of the *Intsia* genus found in Australia is *Intsia bijuga*. It ranges from Tanzania and Madagascar through India and Queensland, Papua New Guinea to Fiji and Samoa.



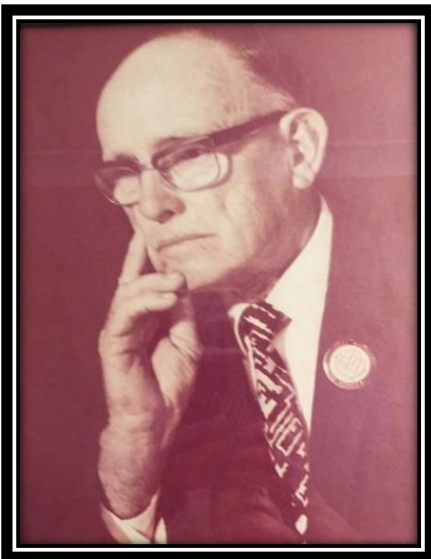
Intsia bijuga logs.

References & Reading

Wendy Cooper, illustrated by William T. Cooper, *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*, Nokomis Editions, Melbourne, 2004, P. 103.

Wikipedia

McNAMARA ST



Martin Joseph Vincent (Marty) McNamara was a councillor with the Cardwell Shire Council from 1952 to 1973. He was Chairman (Mayor) from 1959 to 1973. He was born in Georgetown in 1905. The family moved to Tully where Marty worked as a labourer before signing up in 1941 to fight in the Second World War. After returning from active service, he worked as an engine driver for the Tully Sugar Mill until he retired. He passed away in 1996.

In the 1979 minutes book from the Cardwell Shire Council, it was noted that a vote was taken to utilize the name *McNamara* on any unnamed streets in the Shire.

References & Reading

Ancestry.com.au

Extract from Cardwell Shire Council Minutes 1979.

Image courtesy of McNamara Family

MISSION CR



This street was called after the Hull River Aboriginal Settlement mistakenly named a *Mission* by locals. This government reserve was established in what is now the northern end of South Mission Beach. The Superintendent was John Kenny who was the overseer from 1914 until the Great Cyclone destroyed it in 1918.

It was not a mission in the religious sense but a place of incarceration. Local Aboriginal people and some from far away were forcibly removed and transported, often in chains, to the settlement and made to work hard. By the end of 1915, the population was 400. They found extreme difficulty living side by side with other tribes and being separated from their traditional lands. Some of the produce farmed by the indigenous people were bananas, pumpkins, pineapples, melons, tobacco, and citrus fruits.

The March 1918 cyclone destroyed nearly all the buildings in the settlement with the huge tidal surge decimating the native village and many of its occupants who lived near the beach. Mr Kenny and his daughter were also killed. the surviving Aboriginal peoples were later sent to another settlement newly established on Palm Island off Townsville.



Clearing land for Hull River Aboriginal Settlement 1914



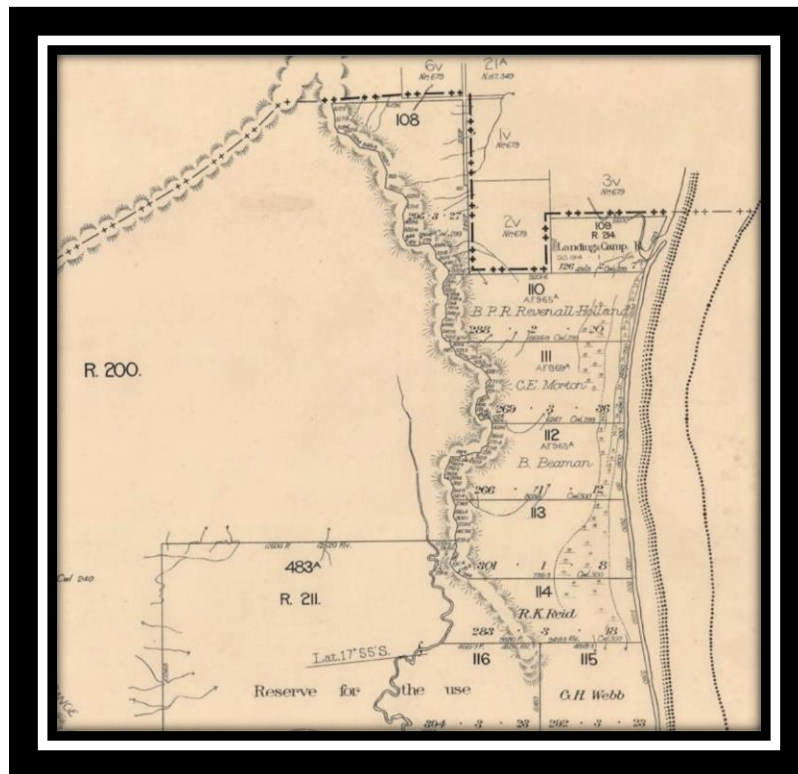
On the beach at Hull River Settlement 1914

References & Reading

Ken Campbell, *Superintendent Kenny: The Hull River Aboriginal Settlement*, Mission Beach Historical Society, H025, 2022.
Cassowary Coast Libraries

MORETON ST

Charles Evors Morton worked as a miner in Ingham, around 1909. In June 1912, Morton selected 300 acres with some beach frontage south of Porter's Creek*, Portion 111. Between 1912 and 1916 he worked as a storekeeper on Mt Fox Road, Ingham, to supplement his income for the new farm. Then, for the next ten years, he settled on his property where he grew bananas that he shipped all the way to Adelaide. The street name is spelt with an "e" but there was no "e" in his name.



Land owned by Charles Morton, Portion 111

References & Reading

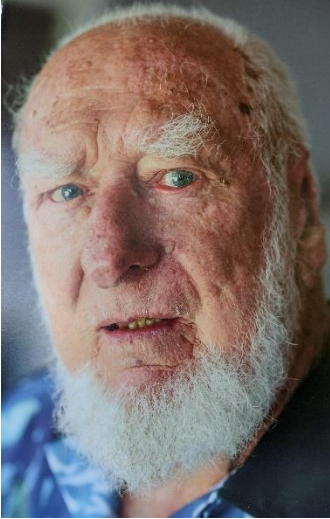
Australian, Electoral Rolls 1903-1980

Constance Mackness MBE, *Clump Point & District: An Historical Record*, G. K. Bolton, Cairns, 1970, P. 22

Parish of Rockingham Map, Survey Office, Brisbane, 192

*Refer Porters Creek/Porter Promenade, Mission Beach

NISSEN ST



David Nissen was born in Tully in 1939. He has lived in this area nearly all his life. Dave and his young family lived at Cardstone where Dave worked as an electrician at the Kareerya Power Station. Late in the 60s, Dave and his wife, Noela, purchased four blocks of beachfront land along Reid Road and later built the Coral Trout Flats which provided holiday accommodation. In the late 1980s, Dave commenced building a large 63-foot fibreglass boat, *Odin*, at the end of what is now Nissen Street. Wheatley Creek flowed at the border of the property and on a high tide *Odin* was launched in the early 1990s.

A Czechoslovakian refugee, Karol (Charlie) Pesina, owned this property and kindly let Dave build his boat on it. Charlie had purchased the one-acre block in the 70s and built a little beach house on it. During the Second World War, Charlie was imprisoned twice in concentration camps in Poland. First by the Germans and then the Russians before escaping both and eventually fleeing to safety by walking over the Swiss Alps. He migrated to Australia in the early 1950s and worked on the Snowy Hydro Scheme as a labourer. Here he met his future wife Jean who was an industrial chemist working on the Scheme. Charlie was also an industrial chemist so after time he commenced working in this field in Sydney. Over the years Charlie and Jean spent many holidays at their beach house. Upon retirement, they were here for long stretches of time before Charlie had a stroke and they sold up.

References & Reading

Ken Gray, *Odin's Beach: Nissen Navigates 80 years of History*, Mission Beach Historical Society, H018, 2022.

Oral history provided by Neil Baker

Image courtesy of Ken Gray 2021

OCEAN VIEW DR

Subdivision named with a nautical theme.

PACIFIC VIEW DR

Subdivision named with a nautical theme.

RAINFOREST DR

Located in Rainforest Estate. Named by developers. Ironically there is no rainforest on this estate.

REID RD

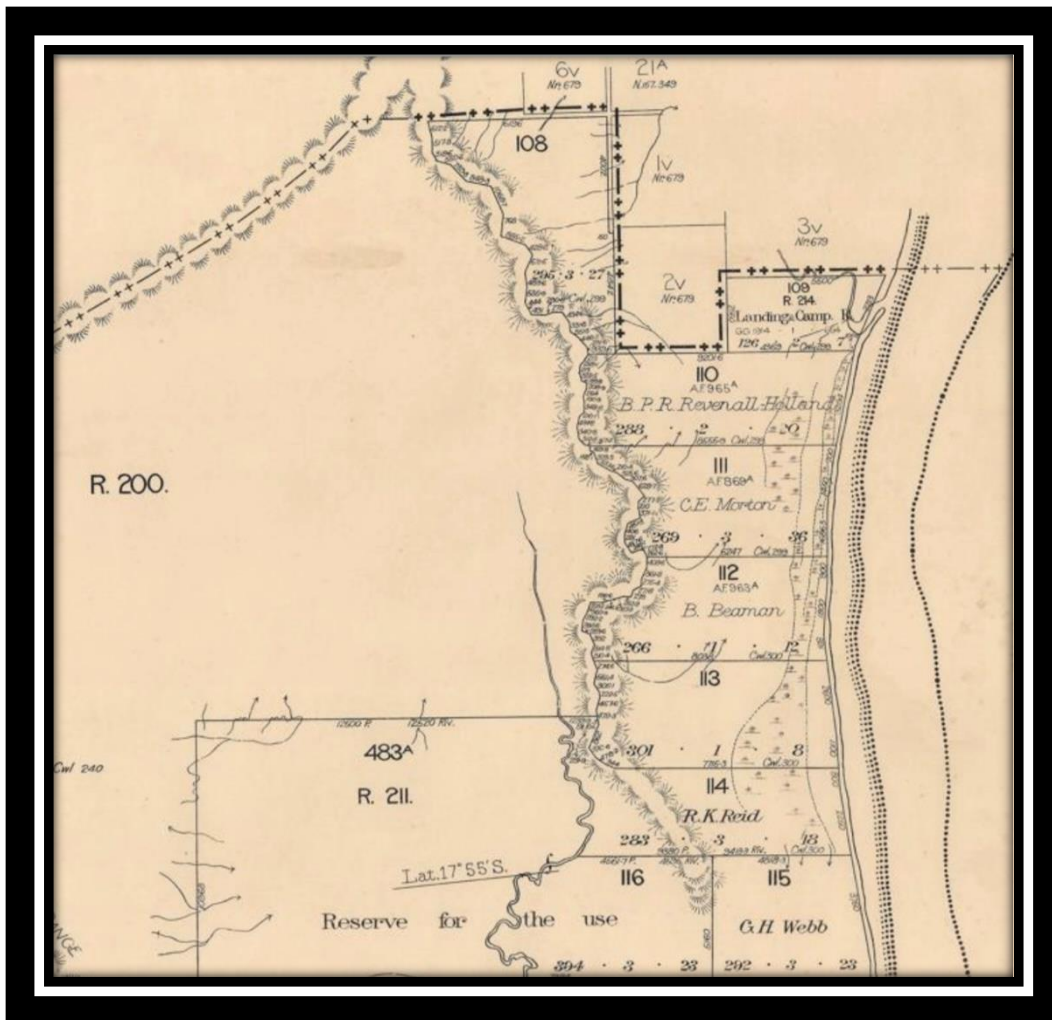
In 1912, cousins Robert Kirkmichael Reid (1891-1967) and David George Reid (1888 - 1914) took up a selection each on land around where Dunk Island View Caravan Park now stands. They began clearing to farm bananas and citrus fruit.

At this time, there were no all-weather accessible roads, so sea travel was the quickest way to transport fruit to the markets. Robert's father was Captain David Reid who piloted the ships through the Torres Straits. He delivered a 33-foot oil launch, *Grae*, to the Hull River for Robert to use to deliver produce to the larger boats that pulled into Dunk Island. By 1913, Robert had his third-class engineer's license and could take passengers on board. There are various reports over the next few years, that Robert skippered the boat on many social outings from as far away as Ingham to Clump Point or Maria Creek.

David worked on his selection, Portion 113, until he met with an untimely incident in 1914. While out shooting in the scrub, it appeared that his trigger had been caught in the thick undergrowth causing it to discharge and shoot David fatally in the head. There is a memorial headstone in Rotary Park, Reid Road, dedicated to David from his colleagues at the Australian Gaslight Company in Sydney. David's father, Peter, held a directorship on the company's board for many years before David's death.



In 1916, David's selection was now owned by Robert but by 1917, Robert had moved to Sydney and was working as an engineer on larger ships. There was no one living on the Reid property when the Great Cyclone hit in 1918. Edmund Banfield reported that Captain David Reid's motor launch, which was moored in the Hull River, was lifted, and thrown into the mangroves. By 1937, Peter White had bought the remainder of the property, Portion 114.



Robert & David Reid's land, Portion 113 & 114

References & Reading

- Australian, Electoral Rolls 1903-1980
- Ancestry.com.au
- Trove
- Image author's own
- Parish of Rockingham Map, Survey Office, Brisbane, 1923

REIMAN ST

Possibly named after Herbert Reiman. Herbert Reiman grew up in Cordalba near Childers, Queensland. In 1915 he joined the Australian Infantry Forces and saw active service in France. He resided in Tully with his wife Gladys from 1930 until his death in 1981. In the 1979 minutes book from the Cardwell Shire Council, it was noted that a vote was taken to utilize the name *Reiman* on any unnamed streets in the Shire.

References & Reading

Ancestry.com.au

Extract from Cardwell Shire Council Minutes 1979.

ROCKINGHAM ^{CL}

Named after Rockingham Bay located north of Cardwell where Edmund Kennedy commenced his expedition to Cape York in 1848. Rockingham Bay was named by James Cook in 1770 after Charles Watson-Wentworth, 2nd Marquess of Rockingham (right).



References & Reading

Wikipedia

SANCTUARY ^{CR}

Located in the Mission Shores Estate. Named by developers for its Gold Coast connotations.

SEAVIEW ST

Subdivision named with a nautical theme.

SHORE ST

Subdivision named with a nautical theme.

SPURWOOD ^{CL}

Spurwood or Spur Mahogany or Cairns Satinwood is a species of a large tropical rainforest tree in the genus *Dysoxylum* (meaning dys- (bad) -oxylon (wood) referring to the unpleasant smell of the wood of some species. *Dysoxylum* trees are commonly called mahoganies and there are 14 species found in the wet tropics of north Queensland. Spurwoods (*Dysoxylum peltigrevianum*) are found in Queensland, New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Malesia. In Queensland, the range of the Spurwood is from the McIvor River near Cooktown in the north, and south to the Paluma Range.



Fruit of Spurwood.



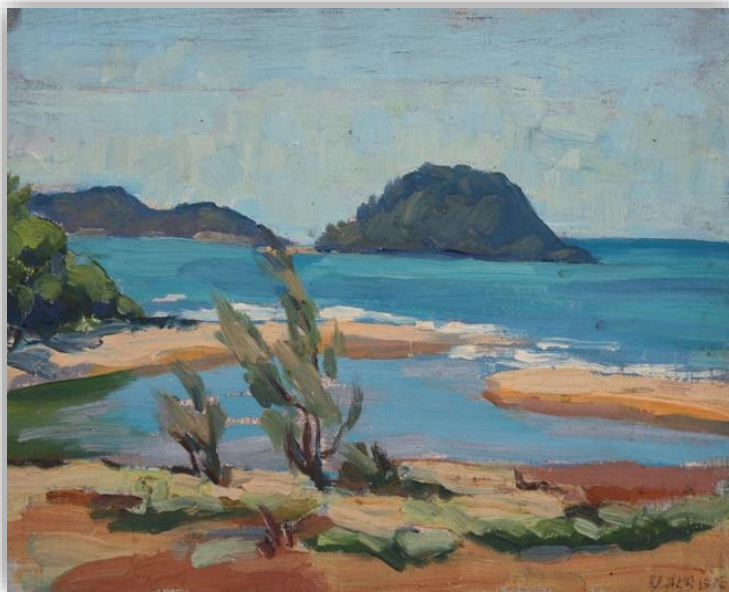
Spurwood buttresses.

References & Reading

Wendy Cooper, illustrated by William T. Cooper, *Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest*, Nokomis Editions, Melbourne, 2004, P. 290.

Wikipedia

TIMANA ^{TCE}



Named after Timana Island which was reassigned its ancient Aboriginal name by Edmund Banfield in preference to early European naval surveyors who called it Thorpe Island.

References & Reading

Wikipedia

To the Islands, Timana. Oil painting by Valerie Albiston (nee Cohen), 1950, Cairns Art Gallery.

TULLY-MISSION BEACH RD



William Alcock Tully (1830-1905) was born in Dublin, Ireland and came out to Hobart on a convict ship as a religious instructor in 1852. He became a road surveyor and worked his way up to inspecting surveyor before moving to Queensland as a commissioner of crown lands in the Kennedy and Warrego pastoral districts in 1863. He was appointed surveyor-general in 1880. The Mackay River was renamed the Tully River after William Tully in the 1870s. The town of Banyan was surveyed for the construction of a sugar mill in 1924 and it too was renamed Tully after the Surveyor-General.



Tully-Mission Beach Road, 1968

References & Reading

L. J. Duffy, *Australian Dictionary Biography*, Melbourne University Press, 1976

Wikipedia

Cassowary Coast Libraries

WEBB RD



George Henry Webb (1882-1959), a Boer War veteran, took up Portion 115 in March 1914. This consisted of 292 acres at the south end of what is now Wongaling Beach. He called his selection *Koongul*. After a short stint in the police force, he permanently settled on his property in 1914, planting bananas, mangos, small crops, coconuts, and running goats.

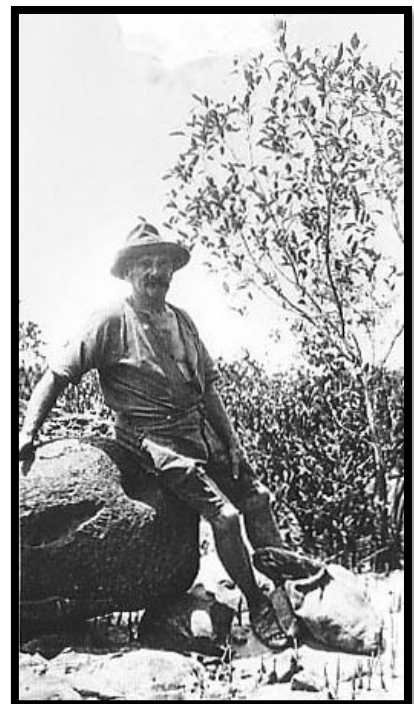
He left his farm in 1916 to fight in World War I. He was stationed on Thursday Island and then shipped out to France. After a bout of pneumonia, he was discharged and repatriated back to *Koongul* by January 1918. Thus, he was present when the Great Cyclone hit in March 1918. He was one of the first to arrive at the 'Mission' Site to witness the death and devastation that had occurred there.

George married Lilian Hopkins in 1925. Lilian's late father, Thomas Hollis Hopkins, had selected 1,280 acres in 1882, which was nearly the whole of South Mission Beach to the Hull*River as we know it today. Lilian was a frequent visitor to Dunk Island and a good friend of Bertha Banfield*. Lilian's older brother, Spencer McTaggart Hopkins, eventually purchased the Dunk Island freehold land off Bertha in 1933 having owned a half share in the land a decade earlier.

George and Lilian had a daughter, Elizabeth, the year after they married. When it was time to be schooled, young Elizabeth joined the three Dunlop* children at their little private school situated where Bali Hai is today. Lilian took Elizabeth to Scotland in 1935 to further her education.

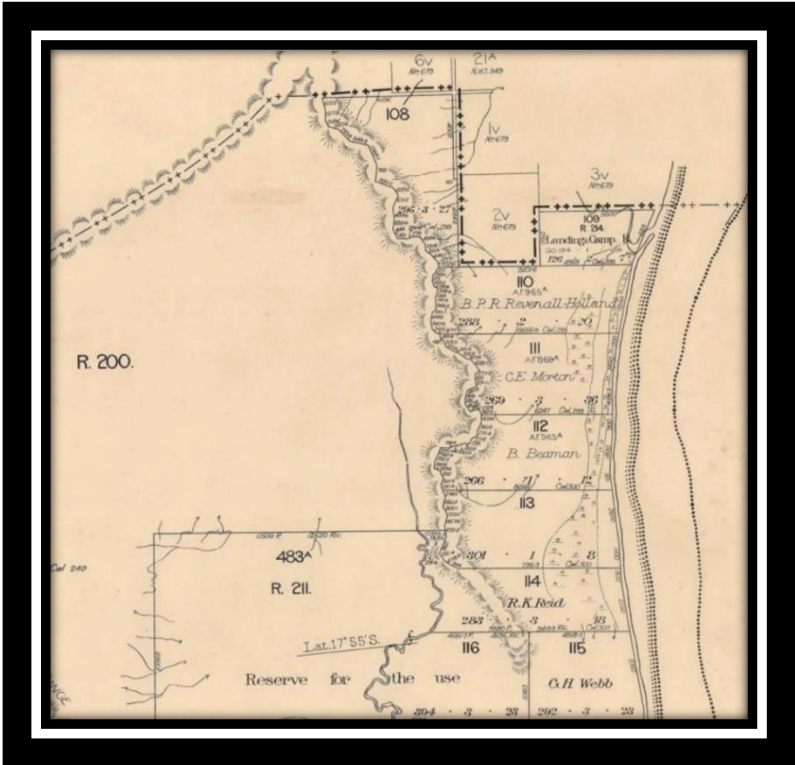
George sold up to Alfred Wheatley* in 1939 and moved to his hometown of Benalla, Victoria. Lilian and Elizabeth reunited with George in 1944. Unfortunately, Elizabeth died in a horse-riding accident soon after. Lilian went back to Scotland never to return. George left for Cardwell in 1953 but returned to Victoria and passed away in 1955.

George Webb wrote brief diary entries daily during 1936 and 1937 and for part of 1918 and these provide valuable insight to the district's history.



References & Reading

- Australia, Electoral Rolls 1903-1980.
- Ancestry.com
- Ken Gray, *George's Diary: George Webb of Mission Beach*, Mission Beach Historical Society, HO24, 2022.
- Helen Pedley, *Tully Street Names: Signs of History*, self-published, 2010, PP. 176-177.
- Image courtesy of JCU Library Special Collections NQID26325
- Parish of Rockingham Map, Survey Office, Brisbane, 1923
- *Refer Hull Drive, Carmoo
- *Refer Banfield Parade, Wongaling Beach
- *Refer Dunlop Street, Wongaling Beach
- *Refer Wheatley Road, Wongaling Beach



George Webb's Land, Portion 115

WHEATLEY RD

WHEATLEY CREEK

ALAN WHEATLEY MEMORIAL PARK

Alfred Henry Wheatley (1888-1974) was originally from Western Australia. He trained as a physiotherapist-naturopath in the United States. Upon his return to Cairns from the US, he travelled to Mission Beach and purchased land from George Webb* in 1939 just months before the outbreak of World War 2. Alfred settled there with his wife Florence (1901-1989) and children Peter, Don, and Deborah. They farmed the coconuts and fruit trees that George Webb had planted.



After the War, they set up a timber mill that made cases to pack the fruit for southern markets. By now they had planted bananas and tomatoes. Don married Feluga girl, Nancy Mitchell (left), and in the early 1960s they bought their own farm at Mission Beach. Peter had married Theresa Salleras and stayed on the original farm after Alfred and Florence retired. Alfred passed away on his beloved property in 1974.



Peter Wheatley's sawmill, 1962.

The Wheatleys subdivided land to pay to get electricity connected to the timber mill. This led to the town being connected to the grid in 1961. Wheatley Road and Wheatley Creek (formally Webb Creek) border the southern boundary of the original Wheatley property. Don and Nancy were active in the Mission Beach Lions and Lioness Clubs while Peter held office on the Cardwell Shire Council for many years.



Joe Olsen, Debbie Olsen (nee Wheatley), Don, Florence, Alfred and Peter Wheatley, Alfred's mother with baby Jan Olsen

On the 11th of January in 1985, Peter and Theresa lost their only son, Alan, in a vehicle accident along Reid* Road. To perpetuate the memory of this very loved and popular young man, the family donated beachfront land, just north of Wheatley's Creek, so the community could develop a park and playground in his honour.



References & Reading

Ken Gray, *Wheatley Beach Tales*, Mission Beach Historical Society, H011, 2022.

Wikipedia.

Image of sawmill courtesy of Rick Family

Images of Wheatley Family courtesy of Don Wheatley

*Refer Webb Street, Wongaling Beach

*Refer Reid Road, Wongaling Beach

WHITING ST

Brothers Ernest and Fredrick Whiting were English immigrants who commenced cane farming outside of Tully around 1925. The newly built Tully Sugar Mill had just started operating. The area where their farm was situated became known as Whiting's Crossing. Their young nephew, Fred *Nobby* Whiting, also migrated and helped his uncles clear and work the property. When they weren't working on the farm, Whitings had small boats that they ferried holidaymakers over to Dunk and surrounding Islands.



The *Redwing* in the 1930s

Around 1940, the brothers built a beach hut where Bali Hai on Banfield* Parade is now at Wongaling Beach. In fact, the beach in front of their hut was then known as *Whiting's Beach* as *Wongaling* was not at the time used to describe the area.



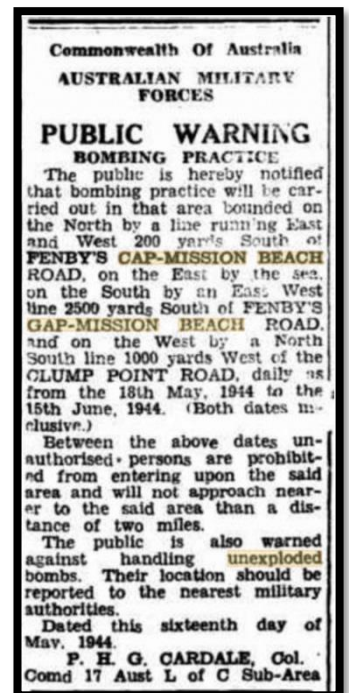
Fred (Nobby) Whiting (driver) and Uncle Fred (with dog) at Whiting's Crossing.

The older Fred had married Phyllis Wiskar who had nieces and nephews that would holiday often to the beach house. Ron and John Wiskar recall the day Australian Army personal came in jeeps and escorted the whole family up to Porters* Creek. They were instructed to remain there as they were conducting “tests” in the beach area. Ron recalls looking down the beach and seeing groups of soldiers positioned in different places. He witnessed a plane flying over the soldiers and spraying a yellow substance that drifted down on top of the men. By evening the army returned the family back to the beach hut. Orders were given to only walk on the squares of cardboard that were spread from the jeeps



Members of the Australian Chemical Warfare Research & Experimental Section setting up equipment on Mission Beach

to the hut and out the back to the dunny. Years later, as adults, Ron and John would hear stories of mustard gas tests on our troops in North Queensland and think back to that day.



References & Reading

Oral History provided by Ron, John & Val Wiskar, 2022.

Trove

Cassowary Coast Libraries

Images AWM Accession NO PO3332.007

*Refer Banfield Parade, Wongaling Beach

*Refer Porter Promenade/Porters Creek, Mission Beach

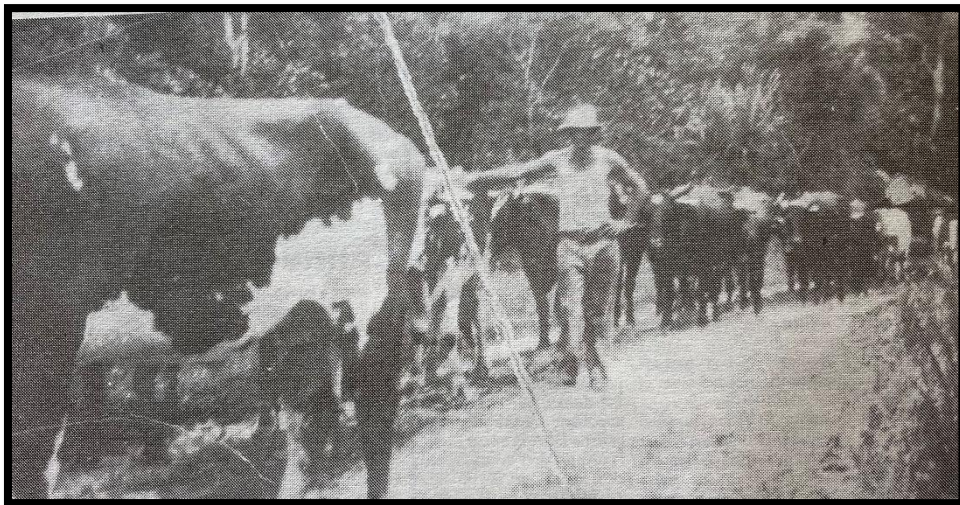
WILDSOET ST

This street is named after the Wildsoet family who were early pioneers in the area. Marcus Wildsoet, a Dane, arrived in Cardwell around 1880. Upon his death in 1894 he left his widow Penuel with six children. She remarried Gilbert Hilliar* and settled just north of the Murray River.



By 1908 his sons, Johan (Joe) and Christian (Chris) Wildsoet were helping John Bunting* collect timber in the South Mission Beach and Carmoo area. John's daughter, Maud Mary Ann Bunting, married Chris Wildsoet in 1910.

Maude (nee Bunting) and Chris Wildsoet.



Bert Wildsoet (Maude & Chris's son) bullock driving, 1934

Chris was noted for his good relations with the Djiru people. He was brought up with Aboriginal children and learned their languages. He worked mostly in the timber industry and was a timber inspector for the Tully Sugar Mill. Chris Wildsoet also located Wildsoet Gap for Arnold Jones, the road construction overseer, who consequently named it after Chris. He later worked for the Cardwell Shire Council. Years later, Ted Wildsoet, a son of Chris and Maud's, became a Councillor in the Cardwell Shire.



Joe Wildsoet with Bill Andrews drying their nets, Mission Beach 1951

Joe went on to become a fisherman. Their other brother, Adolph Ludwig (Lou) Wildsoet (below) married Elizabeth Ann Garner*, daughter of Edward and Edith Garner, in 1908 and had settled in Mission Beach by 1911. He helped the Garners who were running the Cutten* timber mill at the time.



Lou Wildsoet



Garners working Cutten's Case Mill. 1908

Reference & Reading

Ancestry.com

The Special Silver Jubilee Edition, the Tully Times, June 1989

*Refer Hilliar Street, Wongaling Beach

*Refer Bunting Street, Wongaling Beach

*Refer Garners Beach Road, Garners Beach

*Refer Cutten Street, Bingil Bay