

Peach Trees Gazette

Peachester History Committee Inc. Newsletter
Number 193 ~ March / April 2024

NEWS AND COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 3rd MARCH: PHC lunch meeting at Peachester Community Hall from 11.00am. Please bring lunch to share as usual. This is our 2024 AGM, and we look forward to welcoming Guest Speaker Dr Denver Beanland, Past President of the Royal Historical Society of Qld.

SATURDAY 9th MARCH: Peachester Village Markets 8.00am - 12 noon at the hall, hosted by Peachester QCWA Branch. PHC running the canteen – helpers welcome.

SUNDAY 24th MARCH: Heritage Centre regular open day, 10.00am - 2.00pm.

SUNDAY 7th APRIL: For our April meeting day we will be visiting the Caboolture Warplane Museum (see more about this museum page 5), tour booked for 10.00am. Let us know if you would like to join this outing, and as we are car-pooling please tell us if you need a ride. Lunch on the way home at a location to be confirmed.

SUNDAY 28th APRIL: Open day at the Heritage Centre.

Any questions or bookings, please contact:

Helen Page (54949557), Trudy Long (0421760810)

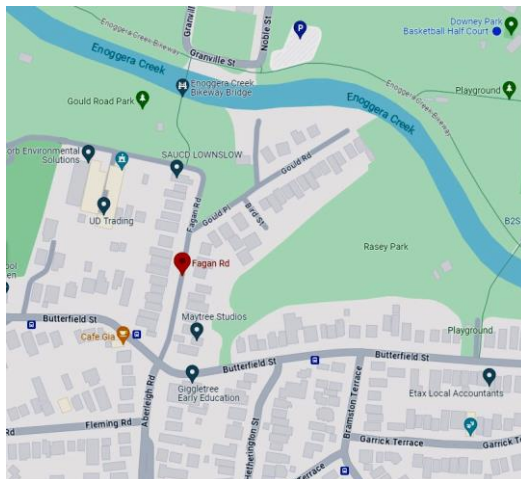
FAREWELL TO JOHN INNES



PHC members were sad to hear that John Innes, our friend and long-term member, had passed away this week. We will include his story in the next *Gazette*, but can let you know here that John's funeral service will be at the Mary MacKillop Centre, Peachester Rd Beerwah at 10.30am on Tuesday 27th February. (Photo: John in pioneer costume at the Heritage Centre official opening 26 October 2019, PHC collection).

1974 BRISBANE FLOOD, A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

From Ron Gillinder. The 1974 flood story in the last *Gazette* prompted Ron to write this account – sharing the personal side of what we usually hear as generalised news headlines.



Early in 1969 I purchased my first house at 13 Fagan Road Herston. The house was half way up a hill from the lower Butterfield Street corner and the property backed on to a hockey field, Rasey Park. I paid \$7,500 for the house from a Mrs Tidey. I took out a mortgage with the Commonwealth Bank and paid 17% interest on the loan. The former 1920 'worker's cottage' was built on wooden stumps, seven feet from the ground towards the back and approximately five feet from the ground at the street frontage. The property area was 589m².

I was aware that Enoggera Creek which separated the Herston suburb from Windsor on the northern side did at times flood across the sporting fields of Downey Park. Several people living in Fagan Road were known to my father and they assured him my house was out of a flood area (prior to 1969).

I subsequently became engaged to Robyn White and prior to our marriage in April 1970 started to renovate the house by painting the inside and replacing floor coverings. Many of the furniture items came from Diamonds Second-hand Furniture Shop in Newmarket. After our marriage we moved into the house.

There were several periods of heavy rainfall between 1970 and 1973 when local flooding occurred across the sporting fields as well as in the lower section of our back yard. On one occasion the flood water drowned our guinea pigs.

Late in 1973 and early 1974 there was regular rainfall and when warnings were issued about cyclone Wanda heading our way the ground was already well saturated.

Our car was parked at the back of the house and I took the good decision to move it to a street further away in Aberleigh Road.

Cyclone Wanda hit early on the Australia Day weekend. Our daughter Tracey was born in April 1973 so Robyn, Tracey (9 months) and I were home during the cyclonic event. As the rain fell, the water levels in our back yard were steadily increasing. Levels increased quickly when the stormwater drain in the rear park area became a water spout with the rising tide.

There were at least 12 treads on our back steps and these were our markers when assessing the rising water level. We counted the steps as the water rose and thought it couldn't possibly reach the top step. When it did, we quickly realised the water could reach the floorboards and there was an urgent need to move all we could off the floor. Things under the house like mower, washing machine, hot water system and tools etc were already lost.

The dining room table became the stacking point. The table held a 3-piece lounge suite, a stereo system and a number of floor rugs. The refrigerator and wardrobes had to take their chances.

Once the water level inside the house reached halfway up the table legs we decided we needed to evacuate the house. We quickly threw some clothing etc in a bag for the three of us and headed for the front door in the dark. The water level at the front of the house was about waist deep.

My greatest concern was whether the water was 'live'. Some street lights were still illuminated and the water was covering a number of electricity meter boxes. We took the risk that it was 'safe' to enter the water, and headed for higher ground further up the street to what was essentially an island. There was a large expanse of floodwater between us and our car.

We entered a neighbour's property, an older couple who we had never met, and sheltered under their house. They welcomed us and made us as comfortable as possible. We stayed at their house until the water finally subsided and I could get to our car.

Robyn's parents (Norm & Gwynne White) lived at Robinson Road Aspley, an area that was unaffected by flooding. I took Robyn and Tracey to Gwynne's place and Norm came with me back to Herston to survey the damage.

The house was insured but the policy didn't include flood damage. The cost of recovery was up to me, although I ultimately received a grant of \$1,000 from the Brisbane City Council's flood relief fund.

Fortunately the floodwater we received from Enoggera Creek and stormwater drains was a lot cleaner than water coming from the Brisbane River. River water came with black silt whereas creek water carried mainly grass and leaves. An added component was a significant volume of Cheezels (snacks made from corn and rice) deposited over the whole property. A commercial storage area adjacent to Enoggera Creek, and near Ballymore Park, contained cartons of these snacks. Floodwater entered the store and the force of water broke open the cartons and packets. I removed many wheelbarrow loads of Cheezels from my property and deposited them on the footpath.

Our house was well made with hardwood floors and tongue & groove walls. I was able to take a hose into the house and completely hosed all walls and floors to remove debris. It was then a matter for everything to dry out.

Following the Australia Day holiday I was scheduled to return to work in the City. However I was given leave and my Personnel Manager sent over four or five staff to help clean up. This assisted greatly, including relaying floors with masonite board and vinyl tiles. The rubbish on the footpath grew to mammoth proportions but the Council was regularly removing it.



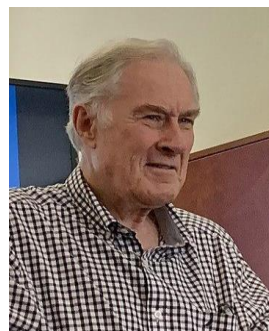
Eventually, Robyn, Tracey and I were able to move back into the house. There is no doubt we had an uneasy feeling whenever there

was a rain event that something similar could recur. We decided to put the property on the market and listed it with Peter Kurts Real Estate. There was no buyer interest and we agreed to put the place to auction. The property was passed in at auction and Peter Kurts offered to buy it for \$19,000. I think this practice is now illegal.

(PS. The property is currently valued at \$1.4m and is leased at \$1,100 per week.)

For peace of mind we accepted the \$19,000 offer and looked for another property on a hill. We purchased 16 Exley St Kedron in February 1975 for \$26,800, where Tracey had her 2nd birthday on Tom's birthday, 12 April.

INTRODUCING AGM GUEST SPEAKER: DR DENVER BEANLAND AM



Denver Edward Beanland AM was born in Kilcoy and grew up on a dairy farm between Kilcoy and Woodford, attending the Kalangara State School at Stoney Creek.

He is a former Queensland politician. From 1976 to 1986 Denver was an Alderman of the Brisbane City Council including a period as Deputy Lord Mayor.

He was the Member for Toowong (later Indooroopilly) in the Queensland State Parliament from 1986 to 2001, with a period as Attorney-General, and was leader of the parliamentary Liberal Party. He is the author of several books about family and Queensland history.

Since 2015 Denver has been Chair of the National Archives of Australia Advisory Council. He is Immediate Past President of The Royal Historical Society of Queensland, and is also Chair of the Brisbane City Council's Heritage Advisory Committee.

In 2020, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the people and Parliament of Queensland, and to archival and historical organisations.

From Wikipedia www.en.wikipedia.org and NAA website www.naa.gov.au

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING PROGRAM

Note from editor: A nice email from SCC Senior Project Officer, Stephne Hambrecht, after an interview with Jan and Trudy on behalf of PHC. I hope you can follow the link and watch the video!



CPFP Case Study videos

Please find below the links for the CPFP videos.

Your video <https://youtu.be/5GBSA9qMSNQ>

Overview <https://youtu.be/d-LHc4kMEjs>

I hope you are as pleased with these as we are.

Please thank Jan and Trudy for their participation in these.

MORE FAREWELLS

It was sad to hear of the recent passing of well-known local identity Dell Stokes, a friend and relative of many, and long-term PHC supporter. Also, those *Gazette* readers who have helped with the Beerwah Charity Sports over the years, will be aware of the contribution Bob Banner made to the Glasshouse Country district. The following tributes tell a little of their stories.

DELL STOKES (née FULLERTON) 1933-2024

Compiled by Helen Page

A member of the well-known local Fullerton family, Dell Stokes was known for her many years as a teacher, her involvement in community activities and her bright and enthusiastic personality.

Caroline Dell Fullerton was born on 21st June 1933, the second daughter of Roy and Nellie Fullerton, and granddaughter of pioneer farmers Robert and Isabella Fullerton of Glasshouse Mts.

The family lived for some years at Redland Bay where Roy was farming, then came back to Beerwah in 1940 so that Roy could look after the farm for his brothers Hector and Rob while they were away on active service during WW2. With her mother Nellie and sister Heather (later Stevens) Dell was an early member of the Beerwah Branch of CWA which was formed in 1947.

Dell became a Home Science teacher, and met her future husband Col Stokes while they were both teaching at Nambour State High School. They were married on 10 January 1953 at the Albert St Methodist Church in Brisbane. Transferred briefly to Winton, they settled at Beerwah in 1954, where they embarked on pineapple farming. Col built their house in Simpson Street which was the family home for many years.



When their children Roy, Suzanne and Fay were old enough, Dell went back to teaching, and as a staff member at Caboolture State High School, taught many students from the Beerwah-Glasshouse-Peachester district. As well as her role in the Home Science Department, Dell was also Sports Mistress for some years and took a keen interest in the various sporting competitions and the students involved.

Unfortunately, Dell suffered from a serious case of Ross River Fever, and eventually in the late 1980s had to give up teaching because the disease left her with a debilitating weakness in her wrists. However, nothing daunted, she continued with community activities, supporting the many local organisations with which she and Col were involved.

Dell's love of sport, especially football, was legendary, and although she liked to join in our Sunday PHC meetings in the

early years, it depended on whether there was a game she needed to watch on TV.

Col and Dell moved from their home in Simpson Street to a house in the new area near the high school in the mid-2000s. Col passed away in 2014, and Dell later moved into Glasshouse Views, where she has lived for the past three and a half years.

After a short period of severe ill health, Dell passed away on 26 January 2024. We think she would have appreciated this as a final patriotic gesture.

As Dell wished, a private cremation was held, and the family are planning a Memorial Day at the farm where friends and family can come to share stories and celebrate a life well lived. This will probably be in June – more details later.

The photos below are of Dell in recent years: the first from August 2022, when she came with me to a CWA function in Beerwah. The other photo was taken by Ron Gillinder in December 2022 when the Fullerton clan celebrated the installation at "Dunnottar" of a memorial plaque to the pioneer Fullerton family. Dell was the oldest descendant present, and was joined by two of the younger family members, Zali and Jade Fullerton aged 12.



ROBERT JAMES BANNER 1938 - 2024

This tribute is compiled from an edited version of the family eulogy with additional thoughts from Lions members and Bruce Page.

Bob has shared his life and insight in his autobiography, so we are able to include some of the events listed there. Robert James Banner was born on 2nd September 1938 in Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset UK. Bob was the elder of two boys born to Alice and Cliff Banner, the family eventually including younger brother John.

With the onset of WW2, life was very different and challenging, and Bob reflects on these days in his autobiography. In 1950

the family made the journey to Australia to begin a new life here, with all its changing weather and many challenges.

The journey itself was quite an adventure for the family, and after four weeks at sea on the "Himalaya" they arrived in the port of Sydney. Then a train trip to Queensland saw them settle into a guesthouse in Brisbane. The family settled in the Mary Valley where Cliff gained work on a pineapple farm and Alice worked as a housekeeper. Bob and John attended the Amamoor School and Bob had plenty of stories to tell of adventures there.

After searching for some time, Cliff and his brother Ron and the family settled on a basic property (no electricity or much else) on Sunrise Rd, Noosa. John and Bob enjoyed many adventures there. There was lots of hard work on the farm for both of them, and school was a one room/one teacher affair at Tinbeerwah.

Bob and John learnt a lot from their father Cliff and his brother Ron as they took on the challenges of early farming life. They certainly provided Bob with an amazing wealth of knowledge and experience of drought, floods, farming challenges, dangerous wildlife, working with limited resources, many new advances and equipment, and much more.

Thankfully life was to take a new direction as part of the farm was sold off and Bob had met a charming young lady by the name of Joy. He applied for a job at a local building supply company, and after a quick lesson in truck driving and gaining a licence he started work. Bob and Joy were married in 1971.

In 1973 Bob became the farm manager at the COD pineapple research farm at Beerwah. This was an exciting time for Bob and Joy where Bob was able to deploy the farming skills learned from his father.

They settled into life there, and in the next few years Paul and Marty came along to complete the family. Bob's years at COD provided challenges and successes, and Bob gave a huge amount to the industry over the years.

The family enjoyed the years on the research farm, but eventually it was sold. After a short time in Real Estate, Bob saw an opportunity in Pest Control and so Hinterland Pest Control was born. He ran this business until his retirement in the early 2000s.

They moved to Peachester at this stage, and with time for new pursuits, Bob joined the Beerwah Writers Group. He enjoyed writing and was pleased to complete his autobiography as a record for the family. He saw his boys grow up and present him with five beautiful grandchildren whom he loved dearly. He enjoyed watching the family tree grow.

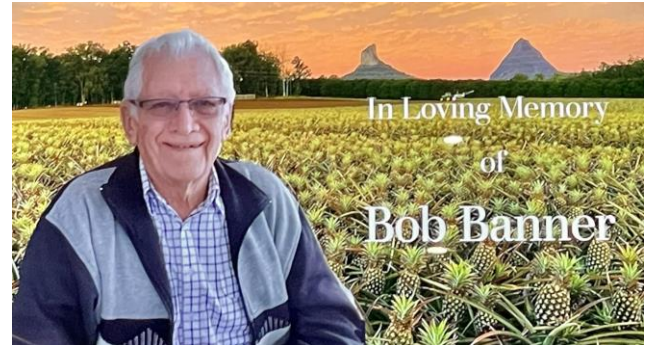
As many *Gazette* readers know, Bob was a long-term member of Lions, and representatives from the Beerwah Lions Club added a tribute which revealed a lot about Bob's commitment to that organisation and its role in serving the community.

Bob first joined the Tewantin-Noosa Club in 1970, then became a member at Beerwah in 1973, continuing his involvement with Lions for a remarkable 54 years. During this time he held many leadership positions and worked tirelessly on their club projects. In 2005 he was recognised for his outstanding service to the community with Lions Life Membership.

Representing Lions, Bob became involved in the Beerwah Charity Sports (community fund-raiser for Qld Cancer Council) which he then served for more than 30 years. It was through

this role that Bruce Page spent a lot of time with Bob, becoming a good friend. They worked on the Committee organising the sports day each year and doing the rounds of local businesses to secure sponsorship for the competitions.

Bruce says, "Bob gave 100% to everything he was involved with. He cared deeply for the local community and was always enthusiastic about supporting it. He made a significant contribution and was a genuine fair dinkum bloke!"



Bob (front) with Max Pinwill running the Lions barbecue at the Beerwah Charity Sports in 2018.

Call-out to connect Founding Families



Please help support our Founding Families Project.

We are identifying every original landowner in the Moreton Bay District from 1860 to 1910's approx. and putting together a family history on each one. We are also adding all these families in our computer program to show intermarriages to create an incredible Family Tree.

We currently have several hundred family connections through marriage. eg The Carseldine Family intermarried with over 45 other families in the district between approx. 1860 and 1880's.

This is a unique project that as far as we know, has never been attempted before. Our Family Tree is growing by the day.

We are adding lots of information to our Founding Family Archives and are on the lookout for the following information:

- Family Stories / Histories including work histories (Occupations); leisure activities, family & community events
- Historical documents eg Land Title Documents; Birth, Death, Marriages Certificates
- Historical (Old) Photographs
- Diaries; Letters; Newspaper Articles
- War Records; etc

If you have anything that you are willing to share copies of with us, to help build up the Family Archives, please come chat with one of our Members at our Australia Day Fund Raising Event at the Caboolture Historical Village or drop us an email to discuss at chrg55@outlook.com

These Family Founding Archives will be available to anyone researching their family tree. We are here to help as much as we can.

CABOOLTURE WARPLANE & FLIGHT HERITAGE MUSEUM

From their website www.cwpmuseum.com.au



The Caboolture Warplane Museum is not just a collection of static displays but also dynamic displays with dynamic activities. Most of the warplanes on display actually fly.

The Museum currently houses the North American T-6 Texan, a Winjeel and Gipsy Moth. The Wirraway and T-28B Trojan are hangared nearby on the airfield by Warplanes Pty Ltd and are readily available for Adventure Flights and other static display events run by the Museum. These exhibits of Australian aviation heritage are also available for commemorative flypasts on ANZAC Day and other occasions.

The Members of the Museum seek, through their displays and activities, not only to illustrate the military and industrial contributions made by Australians in their quest for peace, but the spirit of a nation that prevailed at that time.

Most importantly, it recognises, respects, honours and perpetuates the spirit of ANZAC and the sacrifices made by so many Australian men and women during the war, so that future generations may never forget.

Our mission and vision: To promote the history of military and civil aviation to the wider community.

Our Museum is dedicated to preserving and publicly displaying artefacts from Australian Aviation History with particular reference to WW2 and Vietnam.

Our vision is that we honour our pioneering and heroic aviators and educate new generations on the developments in machinery and technology that has brought them to the world they know today.

Society is better informed when it better understands the past.

The Gipsy Moth aircraft, hangared at the museum and piloted by Captain Charles Kennedy Scott in 1931, set a world flight record from London to Darwin of 9 days, 4 hours and 11 minutes. This broke an earlier record set by fellow aviator, Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, by 19 hours.



Address: Hangar 101, 157 McNaught Road, Caboolture Qld 4510. (07) 5330 1969 / 0401 493 999. Open 7 days, 9am - 3pm.

AWM CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

"Transcribe" is a new project announced by the Australian War Memorial recently to celebrate Valentine's Day; and they are calling for volunteers to help. The main requirement is that you are able to read running writing – which as we know is a dying art...

Sign up to Transcribe and help preserve Australia's history.

We're excited to announce the launch of Transcribe, our new online transcription platform allowing you to engage with historical documents from the Australian War Memorial.

Among the documents are love letters written between Sergeant Malcolm "Mac" Keshan and Dorothy Ann Williams. Throughout his service and internment as a prisoner of war, Malcolm wrote letters to Dorothy expressing his love and sharing his experience in captivity.

Join us in transcribing thousands of love letters, diaries and documents sent from the front lines, and help preserve Australia's history.

Sign up today, visit www.transcribe.awm.gov.au

**Share the love this
Valentine's Day**

**Become a transcription volunteer
Visit transcribe.awm.gov.au**

GOOD NEWS FOR PEACHESTER HALL



Hall Committee, PHC and other community reps with State MP Andrew Powell, celebrating a recent grant from GCBF to install air-conditioning in the hall. Looking forward to cool conditions for the last few weeks of summer!

OUT AND ABOUT

Volunteers back at work, Eileen's birthday, and visitors to the Heritage Centre. The last photo – a visit from cemetery historian Lisa Murray.

