

Peach Trees Gazette

Peachester History Committee Inc. Newsletter
Number 198 ~ January February 2025

NEWS AND COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY: Regular open day at the Peachester Heritage Centre, but this is Australia Day, so we are having a sausage sizzle and a special display of Australiana to celebrate.

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY: First lunch meeting of the year, from 11.00am at the Peachester Hall. This will be a planning meeting, so bring your ideas and suggestions for guest speakers and activities. And bring something for the shared lunch as usual.

SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY: Regular open day at the Heritage Centre, open from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

MONDAYS AT HERITAGE CENTRE: Members are back at work at the Heritage Centre each Monday, from 9.00am. New volunteers always welcome.

Welcome to 2025, and we hope to see you soon.

Helen Page, 0408 542961, hmpage@bigpond.com

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HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY!



FAREWELLS

We were sad to hear this week that our long-term member Joe Holland had passed away. And just before Christmas, member Colin Cochran's funeral was held at the Woodford Cemetery. A great loss to all who knew them, and we send our condolences to their families.



JOE HOLLAND

From Helen Page (Thursday)

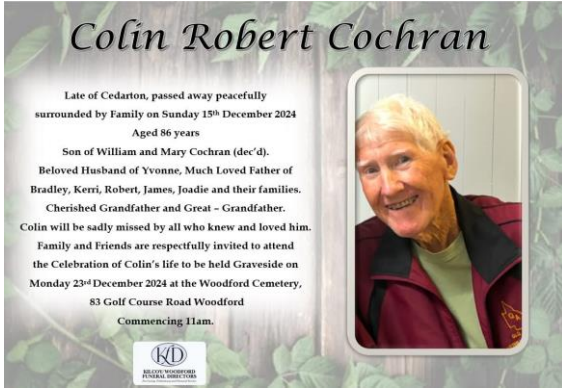
I just heard from Stella this morning that Joe passed away yesterday. Then his daughter Linda rang also, to say they are planning a memorial service in a few weeks' time.

I have been remembering how much Joe has done for our group over the years. I recall him sitting with Nev Anning poring over a very bad photo of the original hall to get his sketch right (see image). That is the drawing we use for our logo. Then when we were restoring some of the old graves at the cemetery, he was there with his equipment working on the wrought iron Butler grave. When we were setting up the Heritage Centre, Joe was part of the team and a great help.

After Annette passed away in 2022, Joe's own health worsened and he moved to Ipswich to be near his daughter Linda, hoping he would be able to keep up his involvement with PHC. Unfortunately, we have seen little of him since then, just the occasional phone call or message.

We will hope to include a proper eulogy in a later Gazette. In the meantime, we send our condolences to his family, and remember his friendship and expertise in so many areas.





REMEMBERING COLIN COCHRAN

From Bruce Page

Colin was one of the younger members of a family of eight (six boys and two girls) of William (Bill) and Mary Cochran of Woodford and Commissioner's Flat.

His school years were spent at Commissioner's Flat State School. His first job on leaving school was at Peachester Sawmill. He then joined the Police Force, serving in Brisbane and Maryborough. He left the Police Force in the late 1970s, and returned to live at Cedarton, where he worked for the rest of his life mainly in the timber industry.

The Cochran family were all keen sports people, particularly keen on cricket. Colin married Yvonne (Bonnie) Klein, a local Cedarton girl, and they had five children: Bradley, Kerri, Robert, James and Joadie.

The boys were also keen cricketers, and Colin played his last game of cricket in a Veterans match with Bradley and James only a couple of years before he died.

He was also a keen axeman, starting with the police wood chopping team, and continuing this sport until a few years ago as a veteran. His son Robert still participates as a veteran wood chopper.

Colin was a strong supporter of the wood chopping at the Woodford Show, for many years organising the sponsors, the blocks and the workers for the events at the Show. He also organised wood chopping events and cricket matches when the town was fund-raising for an Ambulance Centre.

Colin was a popular and well-known figure around the Woodford district, and this was demonstrated by the large crowd who attended his funeral when he was laid to rest in the Woodford Cemetery on a very hot day, 23rd December. He was 86 when he passed away on 15th December, and is survived by his wife Bonnie, sister Carol, and his five children and their families.



Colin (left) with Bruce Winkel at PHC meeting, Feb 2023

RHSQ RECOGNITION OF PHC

From Gary Bacon

Rebecca Ling (President) presenting the RHSQ Centenary Medal to Jan Gresham and Elaine Reeves, representing PHC.



Hi Helen and team

Here is the summary of visit and recognition of the Peachester Historical Society at the recent RHSQ 2024 AGM:

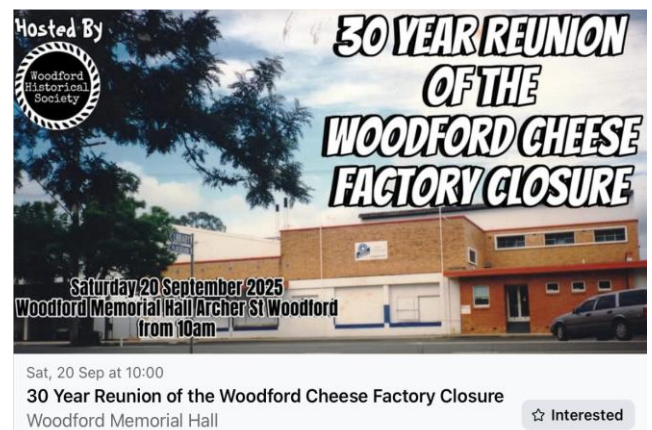
The Peachester Historical Society and Heritage Centre is an outstanding country museum which includes significant material on Inigo Jones, a former President of RHSQ. The Society holds a wide range of local historical artefacts and cultural items, and runs an impressive history program. As the President, Helen Page, was unable to be with us on the evening, Dr Denver Beanland presented the medal to Vice-president Jan Gresham and Treasurer Elaine Reeves, resplendent in their monogrammed Peachester uniforms.

It was a pleasure to meet up again with Jan and Elaine.

I look forward to re-presenting at Peachester in mid-2025+ after my and your offshore ventures. A title akin to "Rediscovery of a Monarch in the Queen's land after 200 years" is envisaged. Very keen to do so as a new Councillor of RHSQ (appointed at AGM).

Best wishes to all the team, Gary

DATE-CLAIMER FROM WOODFORD HIST SOC



BEERWAH LADIES CROQUET CLUB

From Joy Hodgens



In the early days of Beerwah's history there was little scope and little time for women to play any form of organized sport. However, by early 1930 some very resourceful women got together to talk of forming a croquet club. Croquet was very popular at the time but usually regarded as a sport of leisure. Due largely to the efforts of Mrs J. Dodd, Mrs Dave Mawhinney, Mrs George Pitt and Mrs Bill Simpson the following Notice appeared in both the Nambour Chronicle and Brisbane Courier. "The Beerwah ladies have formed a croquet club. Matches will be played shortly with other North Coast Clubs."

Within three months a court had been laid down in Dave Mawhinney's paddock just down the road from the Hotel and a start had been made on building a club house. A Fancy Dress Ball was held that year in the School of Arts to raise funds and holding a ball became an annual fun and fund-raising event. No effort was spared and this 1932 description shows the Hall decorated with streamers of red and black the colours of the Club, Flags, coloured balloons, palms and hanging baskets of flowers and ferns.

Beerwah Croquet Club with a membership of twenty held its official opening on 14th May 1932. Among the guests invited to the ceremony was Mrs W. Austin President of the Queensland Croquet Association who declared the Club officially open. The visitors were entertained to luncheon at Simpson's hotel and with the President Mrs George Pitt playing the first ball, enjoyable games were played in the afternoon.

Over the next few years the Beerwah ladies visited and in turn had visits from Brisbane, Caboolture, Buderim, Nambour, Maroochydore and Yandina Clubs. Usually the planning for these visits was carried out by Mrs Pitt and Mrs Dave Simpson. A Grade and B Grade Championships were hotly contested each year within the Club and Trophies presented. An end of year croquet gymkhana held on the lawn was a fun event for all who took part. It consisted of a series of exercises covering some of the skills needed to play the game and with each success the player gained points.

Husbands too played their part. They carried out the top dressing of the lawn when needed and the lining and ceiling of the Club House made the Beerwah Croquet Club one of the best appointed on the Coast. Playing croquet was not the only event on the lawn. Birthdays and engagements were celebrated there too. In 1934 the Club entertained Esme Simpson daughter of the Treasurer Mrs Bill Simpson at a social afternoon on the lawn to mark her approaching marriage. On a special occasion in

1938 the Club decorated the lawn with Golden Glow Iceland poppies to celebrate the golden wedding day of Foundation Member Mrs John Clift.

Each year the Club held enjoyable Christmas parties on the lawn prior to closing down for a break. The district acknowledged the suitability of the Club's facility too and many of Beerwah's organizations held their meetings in the Club House, and euchre parties were a regular event. During the war years the Comforts Fund group and Red Cross held fund raising functions there. To date it is not known when the Beerwah Croquet ladies gave up social playing on their lawn. However, in September 1947 at the official switching on of electric lighting in the Beerwah School of Arts the Croquet Club made a gift of a piano stool.

Residents who lived in the adjacent area believed that while the green was still being used in 1947 by the end of the forties play had ceased. There is the thought too that the area became Turners Fruit Pick up shed with Fig Tree Service Station nearby.

(The photo, from the Grace Hodgens collection, is believed to be from 1932)

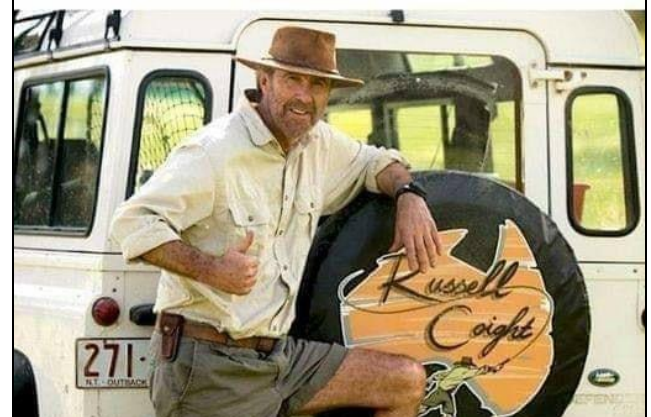
KING'S PHOTO FOR HALL



Andrew Wallace MP presents a photo of King Charles to members of the Hall Committee at PHC Dec meeting.

How Aussies Measure Distance:

Next door = 1-2 minutes
 Just up the road = 10-20 minutes
 Couple a k's = 20-30 minutes
 Not too far = 30-60 minutes
 A decent drive = 5+ hours



OUT AND ABOUT

PHOTOS: Remembrance Day at the Cemetery and Hall; Volunteer Barbecue with Hall Committee; PHC working with Council at the Cemetery; and the Peachester Community Christmas Party.

