Coochie Mudlo Island Historical Society AGM 2013

some thoughts on Landscape Character, Heritage and Historical Landscape Values





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at the Old Museum Gardens





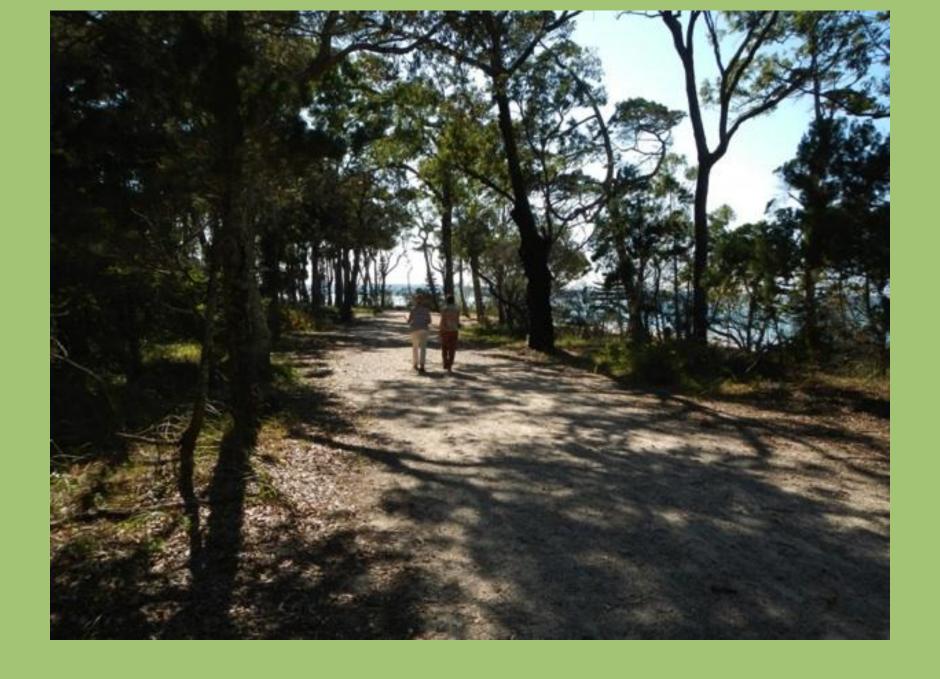




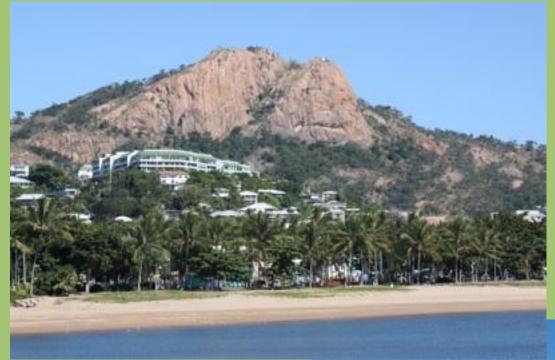


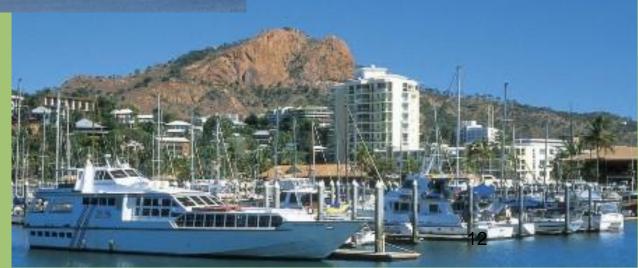




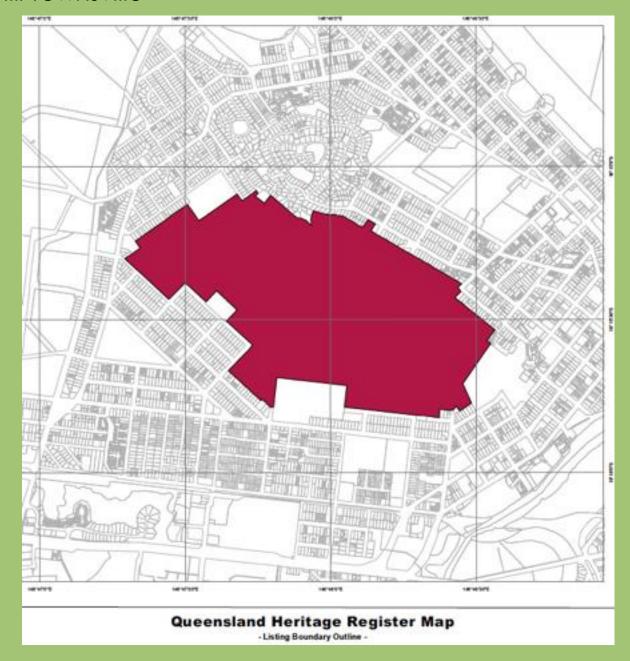


Castle Hill Townsville



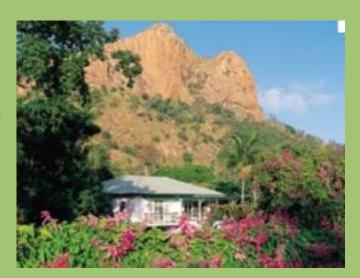


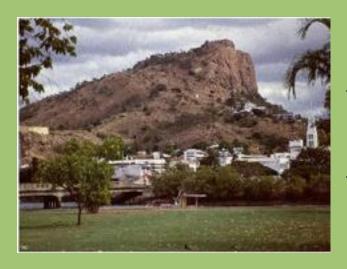
Castle Hill Townsville



Castle Hill

It is important in demonstrating the evolution of Queensland's history as an early example of rapid environmental degradation and consequent conservation measures initiated by the local community.





The site exhibits a landmark quality and natural aesthetic appeal valued by the Townsville community.

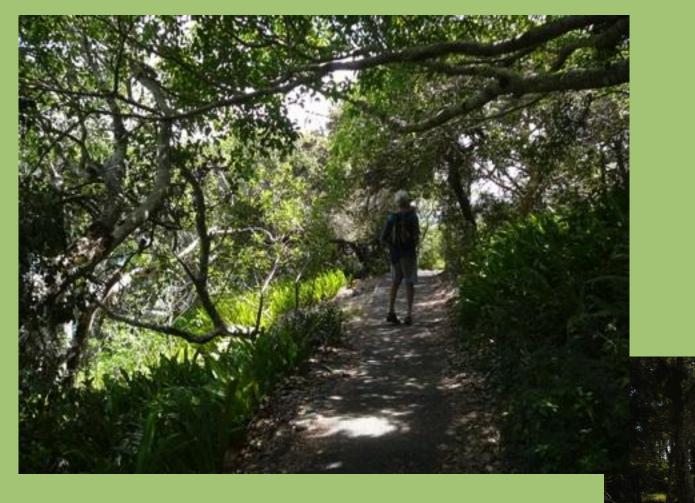


Town of Seventeen Seventy



Town of 1770

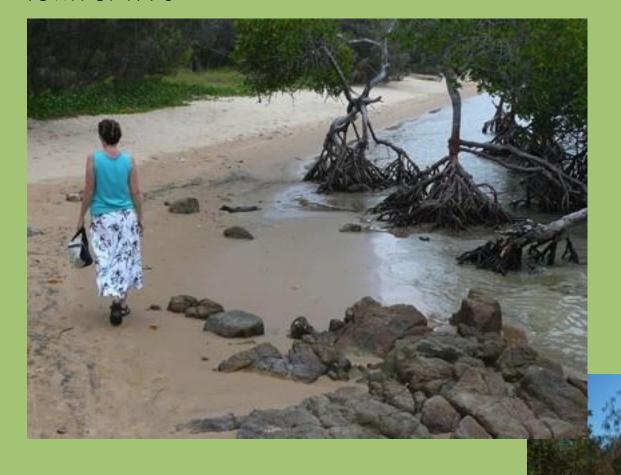




Town of 1770

on Coochie Mudlo Island

Town of 1770



on Coochie Mudlo Island

1770 foreshore park





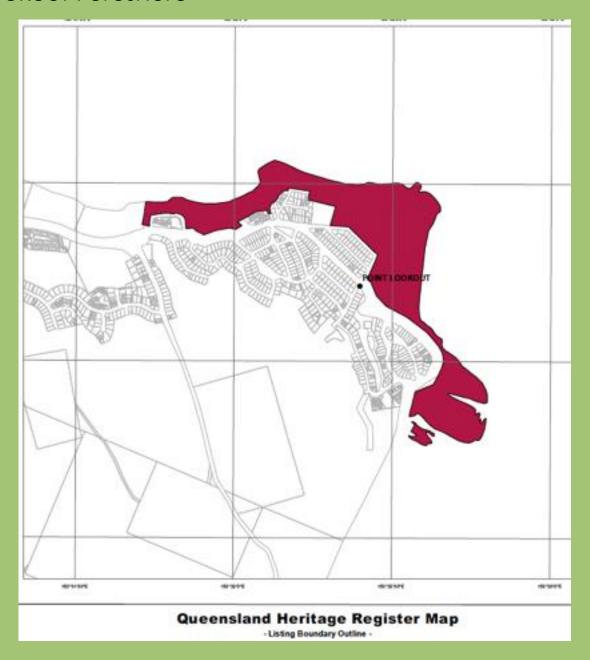
on Coochie Mudlo Island



Point Lookout Foreshore



Point Lookout Foreshore



Point Lookout Foreshore Reserve





AICOMOS Burra Charter • Setting

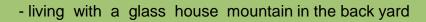
Setting means: the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

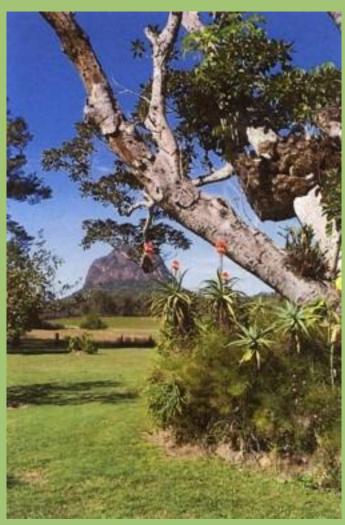
Conservation requires the retention of an appropriate visual setting and other relationships that contribute to the cultural significance of the place.

New construction, demolition, intrusion or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationship are not appropriate.

Bankfoot House Grounds a Glasshouse Mountain in the setting







the setting along Gympie Road





Southern approach

View south to Coonowrin Creek from road at Bankfoot House

Gold Coast Historical Landscapes

part of a landscape character and landscape heritage study 2013

a selected snapshot



Houses along the Currumbin Beach foreshore and along parts of the ridge. - c. 1928

(Ref. 1, p. 25)

"By 1910 some Brisbane and Ipswich families had, however, taken a fancy to Currumbin beach as a quiet camping site, away from the holiday bustle of Tweed Heads and Coolangatta. They were an intrepid lot, given the lack of a decent road to the beach and the total absence of any camping facilities. Each Christmas and Easter a small settlement of canvas tents would appear at the headland, with most campers forced to carry all their supplies from the rail siding and crossing the rail bridge over the Currumbin to cut down swamp ti-trees for tent poles."

"The Government's decision in the early 1920s to construct a coastal highway from Southport to Coolangatta led to further property speculation and development, for example the 'Beach Slopes Estate' . . . advertised as containing 'the pick positions of the most beautiful Queensland Ocean Frontage'."

R Longhurst in Currumbin Landscape Character Discussion Paper p.5 2001

a selected snapshot



Naumann Bros. Sand Mining

In the 1930s and 1940s extensive sand mining was conducted in the Gold Coast area, by the likes of Southport Minerals and the Naumann Brothers.

Mining at the dunes behind Broadbeach demonstrated the malleability of this previously undeveloped landscape and in 1956 the Savoy Corporation created the Florida Gardens estate on former dairying country near the mouth of the Little Tallebudgera Creek, inspired by canal developments seen in Florida, USA. Miami Keys, south of Florida Gardens, developed soon after and was the Gold Coast's first canal development.

(Ref. 2, Ma73)

a selected snapshot



Alex Griffiths feeding lorikeets

(Ref. 1, P.39)

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary was established by beekeeper and flower grower Alex Griffiths in 1947, who began feeding the region's wild lorikeets as an added attraction at his parents' Currumbin Tea Gardens. The feeding of the colourful lorikeets soon developed from a local curiosity to a popular tourist attraction.

In 1976, Alex Griffith gifted the Sanctuary to the National Trust of Queensland. Originally known as Currumbin Bird Sanctuary, the park's name was changed to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in 1995 to better reflect the diverse range of Austra 128 wildlife on display.

Gold Coast Historical Landscapes Characterisation



Elanora Pines

a selected snapshot



Elanora State School Logo

(Ref. 2)

Elanora State School opened in 1983 at K.P.McGrath Drive.
The pine trees are part of the school logo as they are
symbolic of the area. The school 29 ocated close to the sea
and the forest, hence the sun rising over the water and the
trees.



Aerial Photo 1946 showing the extensive Stephens Swamp

Historical Landscape Interpretation

- C 3 The remnant wetlands with melaleuca woodland present a part of the historical landscape of the region.
- C 2 The Gold Coast Burleigh Golf Course is one of the oldest golf courses on the Coast. The 1962 map shows the *links* at the western edge of the residential area beyond which is Stephens Swamp.
- C 1 The canal of the western edge of the Rio Vista canal estate bordered undeveloped lands in 1962. The riparian vegetation corridor seen there (photo above) presents an old naturalistic landscape.



Robina Burleigh



The park on Goodwin Terrace

The pines at Burleigh

selected snapshots



Peter Drouyn surfing Burleigh c.1967
Burleigh Headland is a world famous surf break.

The Stubbies Surfing Contest was held at Burleigh Headland from 1977 to 1988. Peter Drouyn was involved in these contests and is credited for developing the man-onman contest format (two person heats) that was first used at the Stubbies contests and still used throughout the world.

Frederick Walker established a holiday home at Burleigh in 1901, The Rudd family from Mudgeereba was another family that established a holiday house at Burleigh in the early 1900s.

(Ref. 2)



Burleigh Knoll Conservation Park

Historical Landscape Interpretation

This reserved patch of Melaleuca coastal woodland presents an historical landscape.

The parkland adjacent extends that open space area and together they have become a long standing local landscape of strong value and attachment for the local community.



View to the trees along Robina Parkway south of Cottesloe Dr.



Gabriel Road following a natural ridgeline rising from upper Stephens Swamp, is now Robina Parkway

Historical Landscape Interpretation

This ridge has long been a north – south route through the extensive wetlands and connected to a crossing of Mudgeeraba Creek.

The treed ridge is prominent, not only from the sports fields as shown in the contemporary photo, but also from the west and Robina centre.

The trees present a long standing historical remnant landscape.

Green Heart



View north east from the stadium road

a selected snapshot



The Great Swamp covered much of the landscape west of the relatively narrow north south strip of iow dunes along the coast, and included 'Stephens Swamp' and 'Merrimac Swamp'.

Camp Creek, Reedy Creek and Stony Creek flow east and north into this part of the coastal flood plain or wetlands. North of this HL additional, extensive wetlands on the coastal flood plain used to drain north into the Nerang River.

Much of this land was once used for farming activities and is now largely developed into canal estates as well as residential and commercial developments. (Ref. MA & CB) photo Ref. 1, 1572C5

This HL includes the Merrimac Drains Historic Landscape LHR 0048. "The landscape has a special association with Thomas Blacket Stephens (1819-1878) and his son William 'Billy' Stephens (1857 – 1925), who through their early development of the drains made a notable contribution to the development of the physical environment in Merrimac." LHR

"The Merrimac Drains Historic Landscape, with selection beginning in 1852, is historically significant in demonstrating the early success of the pastoral and dairying industry on land that was the site of the first large scale land reclamation on the Gold Coast. The landscape retains its late 1800s historic pastoral setting." LHR 34

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Heritage Landscape - Information & Assessment Record Sheet

Frame - No	Name
<u>B1</u>	Currumbin Beaches

Historical Information

Historical Chronology / Change Generators / Events

- 1859 'Korumbin' entry to the Lands Department in Sydney
- Beach was only reached by buggy or coach from Elston (today Surfers Paradise) until a rail link constructed 1903
- 1888 1903 Currumbin's beaches served as Highway from Southport to Tweed Heads, but fell silent again
- 1910 early1920s Currumbin was touted as growing quiet marine resort for those in search of health and rest
- 1919 Currumbin Surf Life Saving Club formed
- 1924 erection of small surf club shed on Elephant Rock
- 1920s Government decides to construct coastal highway from Southport to Coolangatta
- 1936 Construction of new two-storey Currumbin Surf Life Saving Clubhouse
- 1946 establishment of small pacific Cinema near the beach and post war cabaret 'Claude Carnell's Playroom'
- 1955 Santa land as a children's theme attraction was built
- 1958 Construction of Currumbin's first motel for ever growing tourism
- 1960's Discovery of the famous 'Currumbin Break' surf culture boomed until today
- 1961 railway line ceased operating

Notable People / Events Associated

None known

Related Heritage Landscapes

- Tugun Beach Kirra Coolangatta Beaches
- B 1 Currumbin Creek Estuary

Historical Land Uses

- short gold rush at mouth Elatrock Creek 1904 05
- surf and swimming beaches with SLSC (c.1919)
- By 1910 Brisbane & Ipswich families use Currumbin Beach as quiet camping site (Easter and Christmas turned into small settlements)
- holiday camping along the foreshore
- holiday residences along the foreshore

Historical Evidence / Features

- Beaches and foreshore
- Flat Rock & Elephant Rock

Historical Routes - through or associated with

- beach, as road
- Duringan Road
- Pacific Parade

Intangible / Invisible History

- Surf events - Sandmining

Assessment Parameters					
Cultural Landscape Type	Landscape Scale of Influence				
□ organically evolved ■ evolved cultural □ defined cultural (designed) ■ associative / meaningful	■ broad, regional historical narrative ■ local level or particular ■ sub-regional or serial				
GC Geographic Historical Framework / Historical Themes	Detractions & Discontinuity / Breaks				
B ⇒.The Beaches & Foreshores - A Recreation Landscape	- N/A				

Time Depth Levels ■ prg 1890s ■ 1890's - 1910s ■ 1920's - WW2 ■ 1946 - 1969■ 1970 - mid 1980s ■ mid 1980s -	Information Confidence Level ■ cartain. □ probable. □ possible.
Key Experience / Interpretation Places - Beaches & esplanade to Elephant Rock	

Heritage Assessment			
Predominant Heritage Criteria & Thresholds	&/or Relative Contribution to Gold	Coast Historical Landscape Settings	
Historical	Aesthetic	Social & Spiritual	
■ □ Integrity / Intactness ■ □ Earliness & / or Representativeness ■ □ □ Rarity / Uncommonness ■ □ □ Distinct iveness	■ □ Integrity / Intactness ■ □ □ Representativeness ■ ■ □ Landmark quality ■ □ □ Distinctiveness	■ ■ Degree of community association ■ □ Importance of person / group in Gr ■ ■ □ Length of association □ □ □ Significant former association	
Contribution: Very high for whole of city	and locality		

GC Identity / Iconic

- Intactness / integrity
- Community identification / attachment
- Aesthetic quality (in Type Context)
- Prominence / Recognition
- Symbolism

Contribution / Role: High

Statement of Significance of the Heritage Landscape / Guides for Planning - Management

- The landscape has a continuum of use as a beach holiday / relaxation destination since the early 20th century, and is one of the prominent and favoured Gold Coast beaches.
- The modest development scale, distinct rocky points, steep hillside close to the beach and village style
- developments along the esplanade roads form an attractive unique landscape setting, as they have over its history.
- There is a very strong attachment to the place and longstanding family and community memories held by individuals and families, residents and visitors.





