

Cooneana Heritage Centre Newsletter



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Ipswich Historical Society



Newsletter 5 – June 2026 (*Published Monthly*)

Book Freezing Cooperative Event

On Wednesday 29th April, a band of about twenty hardy souls gathered outside Shed 2 at Cooneana for an interesting and rather unusual training session. We were about to embark on a quest to freeze a large group of Queensland Government Gazette volumes that had been in storage for some time. The process was designed to neutralise insect infestation and prepare the books for accessioning into the Ipswich City Council collection.



Led by Josh Tarrant, expert conservator from the Queensland Museum, our group learnt about book conservation, not only to eliminate insect infestation, but also how to treat similar items in an emergency situation (such as for water damage in a flood event). After being walked through the various stages of the task, we donned our gloves, manned our stations and began our work.

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There were about 270 volumes to process, which involved carefully wrapping each volume in plastic, ensuring there were no gaps. This sounds easy, but it soon became pretty clear that some participants were aiming for a work of art with each volume wrapped, while others used last minute Christmas-wrapping skills to envelope volumes efficiently but with little interest in visual presentation. In every case, vast quantities of sticky tape became their best friend.



Volumes were ferried between the stack, the plastic cutting table, wrapping stations and ultimately, the large walk-in freezer, set to minus 19 degrees. Somewhat surprisingly, even with a break for morning tea, the task was completed by lunch-time due to the diligence of all participants.



Apart from the actual task of preservation, what would be most evident to an observer was the collegiality of those present. The environment was friendly and positive, with all participants willingly supporting each other for the common goal. The event was a practical display of how people from a range of backgrounds can work together. Included in the group were members of the Ipswich Historical Society and its affiliates, employees from the Design and Heritage Branches of Ipswich City Council, Ipswich Library, university students and our expert from Queensland Museum. The group included people from just twenty years of age through to middle age and more mature participants, showing that age is no barrier to new learning. We trust that we have played a small but important part in preserving Queensland's history.

Terrific Tree of the Month

Jacaranda

Jacaranda mimosifolia

Timothy Molony Oval, Elizabeth Street Woodend, opposite St Mary's Catholic Church



Officially designated as an exotic invasive pest, the Jacaranda is nevertheless much-loved by locals and visitor alike during the October- November blooming season. They can be found throughout Ipswich (they are not difficult to spot when in bloom!) but are possibly most noticeable and probably most photographed at Timothy Molony Oval at Woodend (above). They also form centre-stage at the annual Goodna Jacaranda Festival at the eastern gateway to the city.

Mystery Object



What am I? Two spoon-like objects in silver. Try to guess without referring to online sources.

Last Month's Object: *Wig Powder Bellows, used to puff scented powder onto wigs. This one dates from the 1700s. They were 'must-have' items for the wealthy of the Eighteenth Century.*

The Latest Events at Cooneana

Contributed by Sandi Jones – Events Coordinator

I trust the Mad Hatters Biggest Morning Tea was a great success. Lots of ladies were interested at the Ipswich Show. I had the opportunity to catch up with my great granddaughter so couldn't be there. I was able to include a donation link to the page on our website, so anyone who couldn't make it could still make a donation to the Cancer Council: Cooneana Biggest Morning Tea.

The next event is our Horses to Horsepower Family Fun Day on Sunday 28 June from 9am to 2pm. Hopefully we will be able to park visitors' cars next door again by then as this is usually the biggest event of the year.



IPSWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

HORSES TO HORSE POWER

9.00am — 2.00pm SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

COONEANA HERITAGE CENTRE

1041 REDBANK PLAINS ROAD, NEW CHUM

VISIT A BEAUTIFUL **SHIRE HORSE**
OLD MacDONALD'S **TRAVELLING FARM**
SEE HOW **STATIONARY ENGINES** WORK
RIDE A BUS AROUND OUR SITE &
TAKE A TRIP AROUND THE LOCAL STREETS
BE ENTHRALLED BY **MR. MAGIC** —
A **CHILDRENS' FAVOURITE**
CAR CLUBS SHOW THEIR VEHICLES
LOCAL AUTHOR & HISTORIAN **TONI RISSON** WILL GIVE
A TALK AT **11.00** ABOUT HER LATEST BOOK ON **TRANSPORT**
CARVERY FOOD VAN—COFFEE VAN—ICE CREAM VAN
STALLS—**IMBIBIS DISTILLERY—BOOTSTRAPS**
**BLACKSMITHS—MOTORCYCLES—GENEALOGY—MINING-
SPINNERS & WEAVERS**



THIS EVENT HAS BEEN ASSISTED BY IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY EVENTS PROGRAM

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ADULTS—\$7.50*CHILDREN—\$5.00***FAMILY OF 5—\$25.00**

Book online or Pay at the Gate www.ipswichhistoricalsociety.com/events



We will have all the usual displays, together with a penny-farthing bicycle rider, the Heritage Bus Association running a bus around the site and our favourite Clydesdale on site. Toni Risson will give a talk on the history of transport based on research for her latest book “Whatever it Takes - The Beaumont Transport Story”. Toni’s talk will be in the main meeting room starting at 11am. We don’t have music this time due to a conflict with dates and licensing issues. Mr Magic will fox us with his tricks, Veteran and Vintage Vehicles will be displayed, and Old MacDonalds petting farm will be there again. Old engines will be running for the mechanically minded and our Blacksmiths will display their latest creation, a needle stack. We will also set up some games for the children.

Food will be available for purchase from the Darra Carvery, ice creams from Bobicecream and drinks from the Hobbit Hole Coffee van.

We will need some volunteers to help set up from about 7.30am. I will put together a map showing where stalls and displays will go. Of course, the cleanup will also need volunteers to put away chairs and tables and marquees. I will send out the flyer to everyone so you can give your families and friends the opportunity to come along.

Bookings have begun to come in. They can be made online here: [Horses to Horsepower Family Fun Day](#).

The Queensland Heritage Experience 2026 (Update)

The next joint experience involving the Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway (QPSR), the Heritage Bus Association (HBA) and Ipswich Historical Society (IHS) is scheduled for **June 13th**. Participants will commence their Heritage Experience at Swanbank Railway Station. From there, they will have the option to take a QPSR train to Bundamba or ride a HBA bus to the Cooneana Heritage Centre.



This step back in time combines the regions transport (rail and bus) and rich mining history in an enjoyable tour ideal for people who want to see a lot of the history that the region has to offer. At Cooneana Heritage Centre, over 40 minutes you can take in the buildings dating back to the early 1800's as you watch blacksmiths at their tools, spinners and weavers, vintage motorcycles or maybe drop in to the genealogical society and learn about the families who called Ipswich home. For further information, updates and bookings, visit the QPSR website <https://www.qpsr.org>



Part of a series contributed by Ned Kelly

3 - The Bellows

Late in July I concentrated on building the Bellows. I must admit I was surprised as to the amount of work required in their manufacture.

Two hinges were required which needed to be about 250mm wide. In keeping with the late 1800's and early 1900's tradition, I blacksmithed their manufacture. I admit four door hinges would have done the same job but the task of manufacturing them was an interesting undertaking and the end result was a much more rugged hinge. It is a pity that the requirement to fully air seal the nose box with leather, conceals all that hard work. On 27 - 28 July I forged the nose cone for the Bellows. This is a rather unique undertaking for my forging abilities and exacted a steep learning curve. Also blacksmithed was the Lift Lever or hook, which couples the bellows to the Pull Handle in order to compress them.

Two or three days were spent just making nails. The proper Blacksmith nails. They were required to attach the bumper strips to the outside of the Bellows. Nails were also required to attach the Hinges, Corners and Hasp to the Toolbox, and there are nails in the steel bands on the wheel hubs. Five thin strips of Rosewood were sawn to decorate the exterior of the Bellows, and they required in excess of 80 dressed nails to hold them in place. My nail making abilities had me at a slow pace in the beginning; however, I soon improved. To be able to make nails a 'Nail Header' is required. Its development and forging required another day or so on the fringes of the construction. A lot of special tooling was required for the overall task.

Approximately 80 hours were taken to build the Bellows including its blacksmithed stand. It was a relief when finally, everything came together and I was able to test my building efforts. The Bellows work extremely well. On 26th August 2019 the Bellows was finally fitted to the Dray and coupled to the Forge. I nailed the floor down on this day, which allowed the Bellows to be bolted into their final position.



The bellows ready for fitment

4 - The Forge

I was faced with a requirement to mount the Forge as far to the rear of the dray as possible, so as to leave adequate room for both the Bellows and the Toolbox. Having the Bellows already constructed provided greater accuracy for the dimensions required and ensured there would be adequate room to fit them. When fitted they had to slope downwards to the fire pot of the forge. It would have been difficult to calculate the space requirement if they were not available. I used some scrap ply timber as a mock-up of the forge to get the feel for sizing and fire pot location.

On 14th August 2019 I purchased a 3mm steel plate (1200mm x 1800mm). Even at this lighter gauge a sheet is quite heavy, which made it difficult for it to be cut to the required dimensions. Thanks to my garage crane, lots of jostling and the manufacture of some special hooks I completed the plasma cutting without too much damage to myself. Two days were spent on cutting, welding and final shaping of the Tuyere and Fire Pot. I included a butterfly valve in the ducting from the Bellows for air control to the fire. A couple of trial fits ensured an adequate coupling between fire pot and the bellows.



Trial fitting was also undertaken of the heavy metal forge to ensure its build was square and neat and indeed fitted between the sides. I forged a dress trim piece for the top of the back section of the Forge and forged square bolt heads for its attachment. The Forge was painted a mat grey in keeping with a military theme.

By September only two minor things remained to complete the forge area. The Tailgate required a way of securing it in the closed position. Fancy pins, retention spigot, and a decorative rosette were all completed on 4th September. Also, the air control butterfly valve, which required a push/pull mechanism to control the airflow to the fire pot, was fabricated.

(Concluded in the next edition)

Historical Building of the Month – *Naseby: 2 Moffatt Street Ipswich*



What follows is an extract from the recollections of Grace Meyer, who lived at Naseby from around 1895. I think the house description is worthwhile reproducing in full.

Contributed by Shirley Stewart

“I remember our dear old home on the outskirts of Ipswich. The house was a large, quaint, 2 storied brick one, with well furnished rooms. Upstairs the drawing room with its pretty wall to

wall carpet and Queen Anne Suite, and the four bedrooms. The sitting room was at the rear of the house with three large windows, two of which overlooked a Jacaranda tree which was beautiful when in bloom.

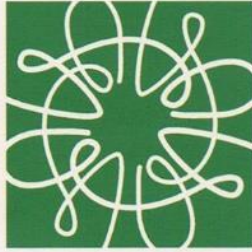
In that room were the piano, the sewing machine, a comfy couch and rocking chair beside others and a table which was used for various purposes. Our corner cupboard and well filled bookcases contained works of great authors, good and interesting story books, girls’ and boys’ annuals, chatterboxes and children’s story books. It was my parents desire that we should read good literature.

The homely, comfortable dining room was downstairs, a large kitchen too, and other rooms. My father [Gustav Meyer], having retired from business, spent most of his time in the gardens and grounds, which were well kept.



It is all so clear to me, the lawn or green on which we played, the numerous ornamental trees and beautiful flower gardens, the fruit trees laden with fruit in season and well-grown vegetables. In the avenue, covered with vines laden with grapes in season, was a swing.

At one side of the house was a narrow street or lane where we played sometimes. This was between our home and the park where we gathered wildflowers – blue bells, daisies, buttercups and others.”



OPEN DAY


Saturday 20th June

Fibre Crafts

Workshops & Demonstrations

10.00am - 2.00pm

- Fibre Stalls
- Workshops for Adults and children
- Food & Coffee Vans
- Handmade Items for Sale



Spinners Weavers Fibre
Artisans of Ipswich Inc.

Cooneanna Heritage Centre
1041 Redbank Plains Road
New Chum

enquiries: secretaryswfai@gmail.com



The Aesthetic Aspects of Welding

Contributed by Wim Smith

Let's talk welding. Old school, from before electric and gas variants and how it has progressed but still retains relevance to the trade today.

Forge welding as it is commonly known, has been a part of the metal crafts industry since the beginnings of humans using metal in the copper and bronze ages, through to the iron age and up to the present day.

Essentially, heating metal until a temperature is reached that is approaching melting point of one or more of the materials and compressing them together quickly can allow the metals to fuse together. It's very useful for several reasons, making items that would be very difficult or time consuming to forge from a single billet can be welded together from parts into a singular item. Different types of metal can be welded together for an aesthetic unable to be replicated in other ways. Western explorers into the Middle East discovered this process widely used in the Damascus region of what is now Syria, and it is widely recognised that Damascus is a name given to that type of pattern welded steel alloys. However, there's much conjecture also about using the name Damascus, if not that it was the original source to western blacksmithing. We see this type of product particularly in older shotgun barrels, with beautiful patterns emerging.

High and low carbon steel alloys can be welded together to create an item that is strong and able to be sharpened in some parts and more able to accept percussion in others. Typically this would be seen in an axe or a chisel of the type a stone mason or carpenter would use, where a hard sharp edge is required, but not the body of the tool. Hard and brittle steel can also be clad with softer steel to produce a blade



which is both strong and with an extremely hard edge. Japanese bladesmiths mastered this layering process, the most recognised named *san mai*. Even today with superb mono steel varieties available, this is regarded as a viable and desirable option in kitchen bladeware.

But it isn't just limited to iron and steel alloys. Many non-ferrous metals are able to be forged similarly, the most widely recognised is *mokume gane*, where metals like brass, nickel, silver, copper and gold amongst others are forge welded together to create patterns of metal

conglomerates, usually for jewellery and for use in the cutlery and gunsmithing trades, although in Japan it was traditionally used in crafting items for the home. This is not an easy process to learn, especially where there are significant differences in base metal melting points. More than once the writer has failed, with a pool of molten metal escaping into the bowels of the forge, but beautiful and unique, it is.



This short story is only touching the subject, which has wonderful uses for manufacturing items with techniques from far back into history. A wonderful skill with a useful and beautiful outcome.

CLAYPAVE

Part One: Overview

From our Curator of Bricks, Alister Cameron

Many of you may remember the Claypave Brickworks on the rise to the right as the Cunningham Highway approaches the intersection at Dinmore. Here is their history.

Claypave came into existence in 1985 when a small consortium took over the operations of the Rylance Brickworks at Dinmore. They also eventually purchased Ebbw Vale Brickworks acquiring the additional brand name "St Helens Pavers" in the process.

From early on the new owners decided to specialise in all kinds of pavers in addition to standard house bricks; hence their name. Consequently, they invested massively in new infrastructure in 1988, 1994, and 2001. They had outlets in a number of places in eastern Australia as well as overseas in Japan.

In addition to pavers and house bricks Claypave continued what Rylance was known for, the manufacture of refractory (kiln or fire) bricks, a number of them being custom made for such places as foundries, sugar mills and other brickworks.

Unfortunately, the company was forced into receivership in 2019, operations ceased and the various assets sold off. We want to thank the developer who now owns the site for granting us

complete access, so we have been able to preserve a number of items before all is gone forever.



Aerial photo of Claypave in 2019 at its peak shortly before closure.



The tunnel kiln buildings constructed in 1988 and 1994

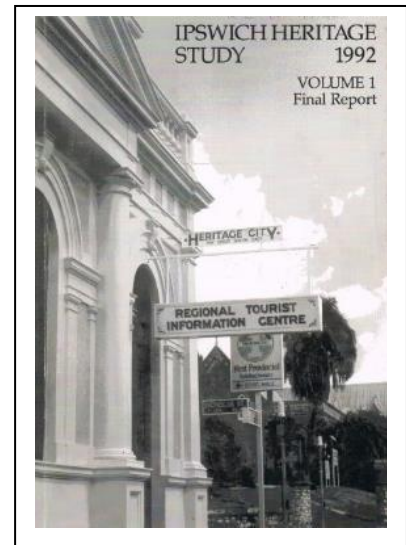
*View of some of the older buildings.
Source: Facebook*



(Continued in the July Newsletter)

Book of the Month

<i>Title</i>	Ipswich Heritage Study
<i>Author</i>	Leonn Satterthwait (editor)
<i>Publisher</i>	University of Queensland & Ipswich City Council
<i>Date of Publication</i>	1992
<i>Number of Pages</i>	Lots & Lots ! (Four Volumes)



This pioneering study is unique in Queensland, being a comprehensive snapshot Aboriginal, Industrial, Public, Commercial and Residential heritage sites throughout Ipswich as they were at the time of the study. No other jurisdiction in a

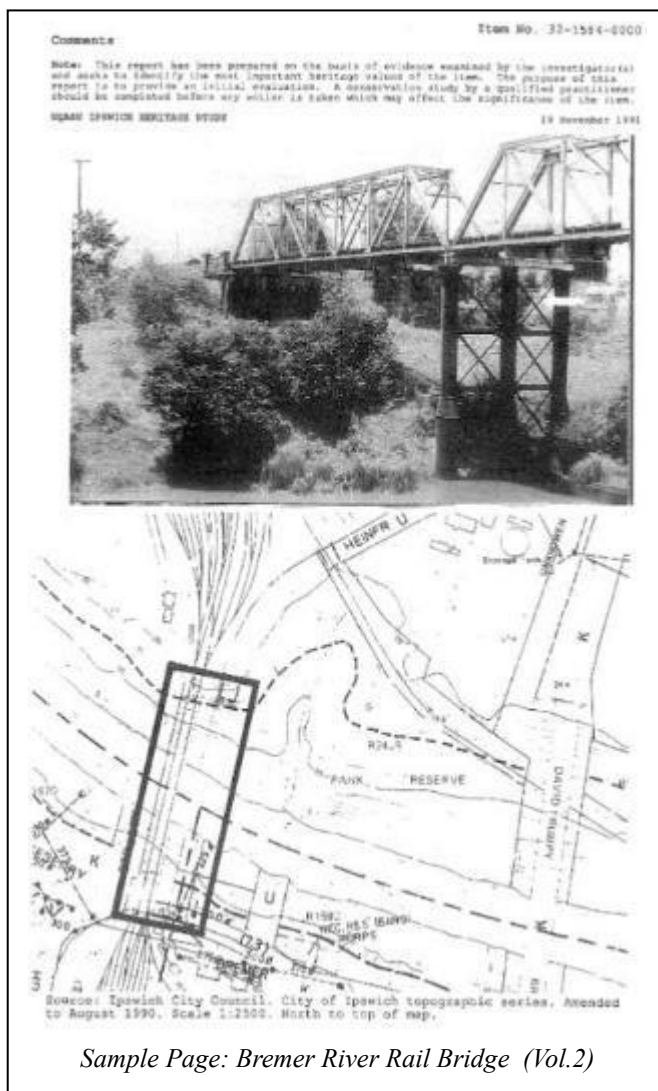
major city had made an attempt to catalogue the heritage of the city in such a comprehensive way.

As a result, Ipswich has a most valuable resource, identifying, photographing and providing a brief history of every site deemed of historical value. The scope is truly monumental, and despite its age, it continues to be an important resource for anyone interested in the built heritage of our city.

The four-volume set includes a Final Report, a volume dedicated to Aboriginal and Industrial sites, and two volumes covering the thousands of heritage homes in Ipswich, listed by suburb. If there is one criticism that could be made, the focus of the study was to enumerate pre-1946 sites, so the valuable heritage of the city constructed in the postwar period has yet to be captured. Perhaps this is a project that Ipswich City Council might support in the future.

Printed copies of the set are now virtually impossible to find (though for many 'old-school' researchers they remain the preferred research tool). Hard copies are available for onsite consultation at the Ipswich Library, and the work has also

been digitised and is available online at Ipswich City Council's *Picture Ipswich* website.



Save the Date in 2026

Queensland Heritage Experience – Saturday 13th June from Swanbank Railway Station

Fibre Crafts Workshops & Stalls – Saturday 20th June at Cooneana 10am to 2pm

Horses to Horsepower – Sunday 28 June at Cooneana 9am to 2pm

Box Flat Memorial Service – Friday 31 July at Swanbank Memorial 10am

Back to Limestone – Saturday 5 September at ICC Dandiiri Room 9am

Cooneana After Dark – Friday 11 September 6pm to 9pm

Cooneana Market – Saturday 17 October 9am - 1pm

Volunteers Thank You Evening – Friday 20 November

St Barbara's Day service –Friday 4 December at Limestone Park 10am



Part of our displays & hard-working members at the Ipswich Show (photos courtesy Arthur (Trever Foote)

Contact Us - Ipswich Historical Society

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Opening Hours: Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10.00am-2.00pm

Membership: Please visit our website or contact one of our friendly volunteers for details

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome.

Please contact the editor: cooneanaeditor@outlook.com