

Cooneana Heritage Centre Newsletter



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Newsletter 7 – August 2026 (*Published Monthly*)

A short introduction to one of our Life Members



Ned (Peter) Kelly Ned was born in 1950 and raised in the farming community at Millthorpe, NSW, where at that time, tasters of Blacksmithing were almost a daily experience. However, life on the land was spartan and following his marriage to Linda the income required supplementation. A number of years were spent as a Slaughterman at Blayney Abattoirs.

However, an enticement of managing a property at Narromine, NSW was offered, so a move, with family, was undertaken. In excess of 5000 acres with 2500 head of sheep and well over 1200 acres of wheat planted each year saw little time for anything else.

Eventually a decision to move and undertake something that improved skills, workload and life in general was embarked upon. A 23-year Military Service within the Air Force then ensued. Certainly, a radical

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change to farming. As an Airframe Fitter, elements of Blacksmithing were taught through his Trade Training and a sound understanding of metal types, heat treatment and use of hand tools developed. His career spanned working on Iroquois rotary wing at Canberra, Peace Keeping service in the Middle East, back to Canberra to work on the VIP aircraft and finally a posting to Amberley working on F-111.

On discharge from the RAAF after 23 years, his service to Defence continued as a Public Servant, with a further eleven years in Engineering support to the F-111. Finally, retirement and in the following 15 or so, years he has concentrated on 'Artisan' Blacksmithing, not full time but most of the time. He has developed a heightened skill in that area. Many Training and Project courses have been undertaken with local, national and high level overseas experienced Blacksmiths.

He has built an extensive 'Smithy' at his home here in the local area and has been instrumental in the development and building of the 'Smithy' at the Heritage Site of Cooneana, Ipswich. As an active member of the Ipswich Historical Society, Blacksmith display work has been key to that involvement, where Open Days and visits from interest groups and schools keeps Blacksmithing at a prominent position within our local community. Life Membership to the Ipswich Historical Society was granted to Ned on 15th November 2020 following his building and gifting a horse drawn Dray, portraying those used as a Blacksmith Travelling Forge in WW1.



Ned hard at work at the Horses to Horsepower Family Fun Day



Book of the Month

<i>Title</i>	City of Ipswich & District Souvenir
<i>Author</i>	Anonymous
<i>Publisher</i>	Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry
<i>Date of Publication</i>	1934
<i>Number of Pages</i>	44

According to this publication, the population of Ipswich in the year the souvenir was published was 22,549. Now you could add an extra zero to the figure and still be short of the current figure.



The booklet was issued specifically to attract tourists to the city, though I don't know if the subtitle of "Industrial Centre" would really be seen as an attractive term these days.

There doesn't seem to be any particular event that was the impetus for the booklet, but as it is full of lovely contemporary photographs, it certainly presents a really interesting snapshot of the city in the early 1930s. My Favorite photo would have

to be the one of a very busy Nicholas Street, looking north from Brisbane Street (now the Ipswich Mall) – it is almost completely unrecognisable. Stand in the same spot today and you will find a completely different scene. Other things have also changed or completely disappeared, though there are familiar images as well that have stood the test of time.

My copy is signed by the mayor of the time, Alfred Stephenson. Interestingly, he served as mayor four times during the period 1912-1938, a time of considerable upheaval in Australia. I'm fortunate enough to have an original copy of the publication, but a digital version can be found on *Picture Ipswich*. It is worth checking out.

Save the Date in 2026

Queensland Pioneer Steam Railway Event – Saturday 8 August <https://www.qpsr.org>

Discover Ipswich Bus Tour – Thursday 3 September 11.15am & Friday 4 September 1.45pm

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

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

Discover Ipswich Bus Tour – Saturday 12 September 1.45pm

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

IHSi Presidents Report – July 2026 [edited]



Since our June Meeting all our members, Volunteers, and Associated Groups have been kept very busy with School Visits and we had another successful Saturday with Qld Pioneer Steam Railway and Heritage Bus Association.

In relation to the School Visits, we again sincerely thank our Members, Volunteers, and Associated Groups that continue to support this rewarding and important schedule in the education of these young students.

We also had some great entertainment watching a film crew film in and around Cooneana House and grounds and even turn the Spinners & Weavers Brighton House into a makeshift Bank building.

On Friday evening 19 June it was great to see so many of our Members and Volunteers that were able to attend a Free Social Evening here at Cooneana. The weather turned on a beautiful evening where we could relax, share a drink and snacks, have some Pizza for supper and most importantly witness the Unveiling of the Cooneana Blacksmiths 500 Needle “Needle Stack”. I believe the Stack has now been dubbed the “Dragon’s Nest”.

We sincerely thank Ned the instigator, Martin, Ingvar, Tony and all the Blacksmiths involved. Importantly many donators of time, steel sweat and inspiration were thanked. This project brought many interested parties into its development and from an estimated initial cost, that the Society was prepared to cover, Ned, Martin, Ingvar, and Rod Sharp and many others were able to build the Stack at NIL cost to the Society.

The Spinners Weavers Fibre Artisans group had a successful open day on Saturday 20 June and we thank all of the Members and Volunteers that helped, in any way, to assisting SWFA with the event.

Yesterday at Cooneana we were to hold a further meeting of the joint Committee between the Royal Qld Historical Society and Ipswich Historical Society for further planning of the “Back to Limestone” conference planned to be held Saturday 5 September 2026. The conference is planned to mark and celebrate 200 years of European settlement here at Limestone / Ipswich.

The past 2 monthly meetings have had some good robust discussion regarding proposed pathways around Cooneana House. Perhaps during the coming month we can look to set a time to review and put together concepts for further discussion. We will put this topic on the coming Executive Meeting agenda and set out a process to include those interested in providing comments.

Thank you all for your ongoing support and commitment to preserving OUR History and Heritage.

Yours in History and Heritage

Hugh Taylor - President, Ipswich Historical Society inc.

Back to Limestone: Major Ipswich Heritage Conference - September 5th

This year's major conference, entitled *Back to Limestone* is being convened jointly by the **Royal Historical Society of Queensland** (RHSQ) and **Ipswich Historical Society** to commemorate the bicentenary of first European exploration & settlement in the area.

Join us for a full day of outstanding history talks on early Ipswich, from its founding to the present day and everything in between.

A particular focus of the conference is on the early development of the Ipswich community. Speakers include our very own Hugh Taylor (*Coal Mining in Ipswich*), Trevor Foote (*The Cribb & Foote Story*) and Michael Pick (*Early Homes in Ipswich 1827-1890*).

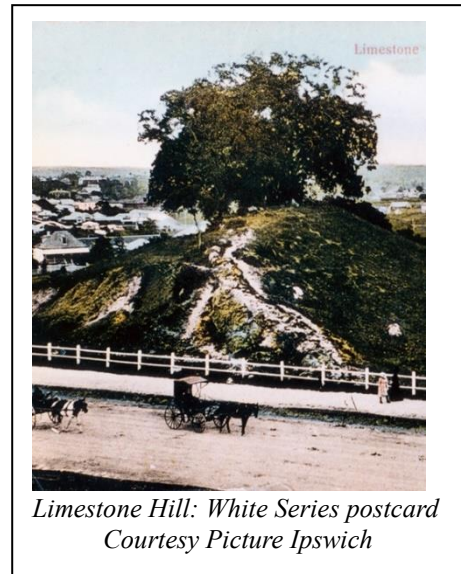
Other topics covered:

- * Healing, Remembrance & Truth-Telling on Yagara Country (Lynda Maybanks)
- * The Limestone Hills Outstation & the Origins of Brisbane (Richard Hunt)
- * Commandant Logan (Roger Ford)
- * Logan in Ipswich, 1826 or 1827? (Pat Comben)
- * Glimpses of Early Ipswich through the Eyes of my Ancestors (David Hamill)
- * Railways in Ipswich (Greg Hallam)
- * Bleak House – the House that Moved Twice (Geoff Thompson)
- * George Thorn Sr – The Father of Ipswich (Margaret Nichol)
- * Colonial Military in Ipswich (Darryl Low Choy)
- * The History of Dance in Ipswich (Heather Clark)

To be held in the Dandiiri Room in the Ipswich City Council building, 1 Nicholas Street. Cost of attendance is \$35.00-\$40.00 which includes morning and afternoon tea (lunch at your own expense). Tickets can be purchased via the following link. The link also includes the full program for the day. Registration at 8.30. Close of session at 4.20

<https://backtolimestone.eventbrite.com.au>

The event is kindly sponsored by *Fallu McMillan* Solicitors and *Senator Paul Scarr*. Students of high school age are invited to attend free of charge.



Website Management Opportunity

Our website, together with our Facebook page, is the main publicity focus for the Society. It is designed and powered by Web Force 5. If you take on the administration of the website, together with Terry Smith, your contact details will need to be provided to Web Force 5 as a new administrator. The Web Force 5 folk are very supportive if issues arise.

The address of our website is www.ipswichhistoricalsociety.com You have probably seen the various menus. If not, take a look and click on the main heading to see the headings underneath.

I can demonstrate how I access the administrative or “back end” of the website where web pages can be altered and new ones created. Please ask me.

Certain elements/pages need updating regularly, for example the events pages. As each event draws closer the information about it – date, times, cost, attractions, photos, etc. should be updated. There is also a booking link that will need to be updated for most of our events. Online bookings are arranged through Bookeasy and you will also need to be made an administrator for that site. Terry and I will be able to help with that.

It is important to have the booking link active prior to updating the event on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) as you will need to put the updated link into the form. Alternately, if the link on our webpage is updated, you could simply give the web page address where the link sits. Again, I am happy to demonstrate how to access the ATDW on behalf of the Society.

I can't put all the administrative information about Bookeasy, nor the ATDW and our website, into this widely distributed newsletter, for obvious reasons.

The ATDW provides publicity about the events uploaded to it Australia-wide, with Visitor Information Centres and other groups able to access the information. Our Discover Ipswich newsletter will only publish information about events that are placed onto the ATDW, so this is an essential part of the publicity for events.

To keep the Ipswich Historical Society website accurate, you will need to be aware of what is happening within the Society. Firstly, after the AGM the names of the new Executive members will need to be updated here: <https://www.ipswichhistoricalsociety.com/about/our-team>

Although it sounds onerous, this is a great way to learn more and doesn't take a huge amount of time once you are familiar with the processes. Please give this opportunity your consideration.

Kind regards,

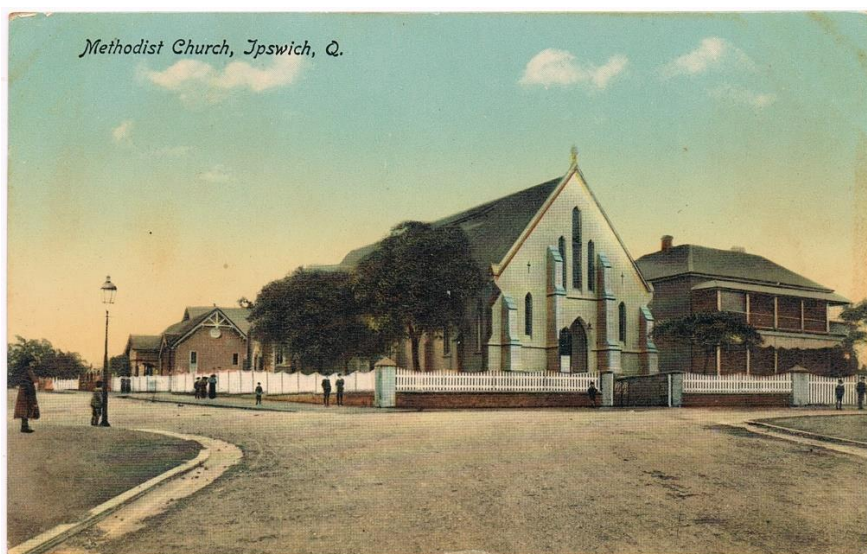
Sandi Jones

A Morning Delight *Contributed by Ryle Moldrich*

Cooneana Heritage Centre,
This morning was a place to be,
Where people gather for bygones to see
So much accumulated history
Bringing heritage and harmony,
From days of old the blacksmith tongs,
Working, hammering, forging, designing
Motor bikes old, restored to new,
Ladies of Brighton House, spinning, cascading colours in hue
Ancestors traced, local or far
Old transport, Clothing, a post box not far.

Buses of old, short story told, fascinating sights
Be it known
One more thing before I rest, don't forget the "Dragons Nest:"

Postcard of the Month



*Methodist / Uniting (former Wesleyan) Church, cnr. Ellenborough & Limestone Streets.
Erected 1858. RETRAC Series (Printed in Prussia 1918)*

Early Monetary Tokens of Ipswich (Part 1)

Contributed by Michael Pick

Throughout the 1800s, Australia's small change was supplied almost exclusively by coinage from England. Our first Australian-made commonly circulating coins were not produced until 1910 (denominations were 3d, 6d, 1/ and 2/ with ½d and 1d following in 1911). Australian minted gold sovereigns minted since 1853 were usually only handled by the wealthy).

Following the boom in population with the discovery of gold, Australia began to suffer an extreme shortage of small-denomination coins, and in particular, the penny denomination. To fill the breach, large numbers of privately-issued tokens began to appear. Although technically illegal, for a time they were tolerated, as they met a need and more or less matched the size and weight of official copper issues. Enterprising business owners throughout Australia saw an opportunity to advertise their businesses by generating what was generally to be called 'tradesman's tokens'.

Around 600 different designs are known, but only two Ipswich businesses got in on the act: John Pettigrew and T.H. Jones.

John Pettigrew ran a successful 'general merchant' business in Ipswich, which included groceries, crockery, boots, drapery, a tailoring department and the sale of wine, beer and spirits. In January 1865 they were advertising a sale on English Cheese! Their store was located in Brisbane Street, but in 1865 they moved to a building on the corner of Union & East Streets, which would have been around the time that this token was produced.



The Pettigrew tokens were issued in one penny and half penny denominations. The larger token is relatively common, though no official data exists to indicate how many were minted. The smaller denomination rarely seen and is considered scarce. Both denominations were dated 1865 – no other dates were ever issued.

The son of one of our members unearthed a Pettigrew penny while undertaking renovations at his home. As the item was located directly underneath the front door, it is thought that it was likely placed there deliberately as a 'lucky charm' when the building was first constructed, a common practice at the time. This would suggest that the building possibly dates from 1865.

As a prominent and successful member of the Ipswich business community, Pettigrew also enjoyed a civic career during the period these tokens were minted: Councillor 1860-61, Alderman 1863-64 and 1866-67, and Mayor of Ipswich in 1864.

(Part 2 on T.H. Jones next edition)

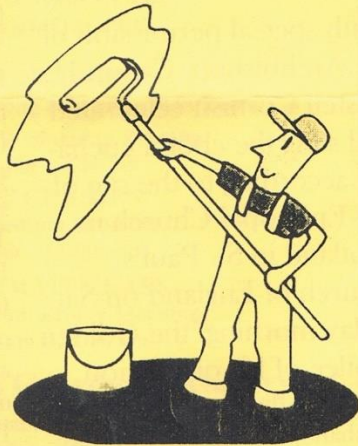
From the Archives

For those of us who enjoy nostalgia, an occasional series delving into past 'Society Snippets'

JUNE 2003

Water Tanks Unveiled

Saturday 24th May, the Society celebrated the unveiling of the murals painted on our fire fighting tanks. Peter Parsons, along with some help from the students of Blackstone State School has created a fantastic artwork out of the tanks consisting of panels which depict various snapshots of history from the Ipswich area. Craig Taylor of the RADF did a wonderful job as MC for the morning. Pat King, Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the Ipswich City Council welcomed all in attendance on behalf of the traditional owners of the area. Speeches were given by our president, Ian Wilson, Councillor Charlie Pisasale chairman of the RADF, Deputy Mayor Paul Pisasale, Councillor Victor Attwood, our artist Peter Parsons, the Soci-



ety's Kevin Mulroney. Paul Pisasale also announced that Council has agreed to provide funding for the three houses to moved from Kholo to Cooneanna. Also in attendance was Member for Ipswich Rachael Nolan as well as children and parents from the Blackstone state School. An enjoyable morning was had by all.

Mystery Object

What am I?



Try to guess without referring to online sources.

An easy object this month, but you need to:
(1) know the correct terminology here, and:
(2) explain what the pointy end was used for.

Last Month's Object: *The thought of how this might be used was a scary one! It is the recording part of a flame tachograph, for recording someone's heart rate using a gas flame.*

Historical Building of the Month – Bailey’s Cottage c.1865

Having stood somewhat anonymously on the corner of Challinor and Herbert Streets since 1864 or 1865, this very early brick cottage is one of Ipswich’s earliest homes, but also one of its least known.

Built for James Colcott, the original brick was at some point rendered with cement, a common practice seen elsewhere in the city.



Typical of the earliest constructions, the building sits close to the ground, is positioned directly on the footpath, and has no projecting eaves. Despite the additions to the property that have been made over the years, the streetscape value of the house has been mostly retained, and it is a remarkable early survivor, as so many other smaller historic properties of Ipswich have disappeared from the landscape.

Dinosaurs at Cooneana! *Contributed by Libby Coultas*

 Did you know Australia’s oldest dinosaur footprints were found at a Queensland coal mine in Ipswich?

Back in the 1960s, miners at the Rhondda Colliery in New Chum made an incredible discovery—preserved dinosaur footprints in the ceiling of a coal mine shaft some 200m below the surface.

These tracks are the earliest evidence of dinosaurs in Australia, dating back over 220 million years to the Triassic period.

At first, experts thought the footprints belonged to a meat-eating dinosaur from the Eubrontes family. But a 3D study later revealed they were actually made by a dinosaur from the Evazoum family—a plant-eating dinosaur that walked on two legs and an early ancestor of the giant sauropods (think Brachiosaurus ).

The prints were naturally preserved after being covered by silt and mud millions of years ago. Today, they give us an incredible glimpse into the distant past, showing that early dinosaurs once roamed what is now Queensland, and proving there's more than just a wealth of minerals under our feet.



Cribb and Foote History

Benjamin Cribb opened his *London Stores* in Ipswich in 1849. Born in 1807, Cribb had been a grocer in England, arriving in Moreton Bay with his family in May 1849.

London Stores began as a simple timber and iron building in Bell Street. Early merchandise for sale at the London Stores included tea, coffee, sugar, salt, flour, rum, brandy, potatoes, onions, herrings, crockery, glassware, dress materials, boots and hats, shipped from both London and Sydney.

Cribb opened a second store, *Moreton House*, in Brisbane in 1853. This store closed in 1855 due to Cribb's "precarious" health. That same year Cribb took "steps to infuse new blood" into the management of the *London Stores* by partnering with John Clarke Foote as Cribb & Foote. Foote had been a manager at the store since 1852, and Cribb had married Foote's sister Clarissa in 1853 following the death of his first wife. Robert Cribb, Jr., Benjamin's nephew, rounded out the partnership. Robert later sold his share of Cribb & Foote to Benjamin.



By the mid-1860s the business has expanded around the corner into Brisbane Street, and by 1873 the store covered an acre of ground and had 150 employees. A three-storey brick wing was added in Bell Street in 1912, featuring electricity (supplied by an on-site powerhouse), a pneumatic tube system for moving paperwork around the store and a nine-person lift. The hardware and bulk stores building was designed by renowned Ipswich architect George Brockwell Gill.

Cribb and Foote had become the district's largest department store, with additional buildings located in Nicholas and Bell Streets. The firm's other endeavours included the *Cribb and Foote Motor Garage* at 144 Brisbane Street (1913), and a long association with the Queensland cotton industry, including cotton gins in Bremer Street (1866), Churchbank (1868) and Fernvale (1870).



Cast iron farm machinery plaque. Editors collection

The Foote family sold out of the business in 1925, and the Cribb family sold their shares in 1937 to a public company. In 1972, *Cribb and Foote* was sold to Reids and was known as *Reids Department Store* by 1977. Reids burned down in 1985, ending 120 years of department store trading on the corner of Bell and Brisbane Streets.

Fun fact: Cribb and Foote exhibited farm implements including a plough for "heavy land", a horse drawn rake, a lawn mower and a corn sheller at the 1883 Ipswich Show.

Fun Fact: Cribb and Foote had its own cricket team and choir.

Sources

JK Jarrott (1998), *Pins, Petticoats and Ploughs: Cribb & Foote, universal providers in Ipswich and district from 1849 to 1977*.

Picture Ipswich www.pictureipswich.com.au



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

Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome. (due by 25th of each month)

Please contact the editor: cooneanaeditor@outlook.com