



**CALOUNDRA FAMILY HISTORY
RESEARCH INC.**

PRESENTS

**EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT
IN CALOUNDRA**

Before I begin the presentation, I would like to acknowledge and thank John & Janice Groves, Anne Wensley and Erica Riis for allowing us to use their books for research. The authors are sitting over there and have many books to sell on the history of this wonderful area in which we live. I would also like to thank "Picture Sunshine Coast" at the Heritage Library in Nambour for supplying us with many of the photos we are using in this presentation.

I would also like to warn you that there will be a photo of a deceased Aboriginal man.

Today, when we look at the location and beauty of the Sunshine Coast, it is difficult to understand why it was not settled much earlier than it was. But the wonderful lifestyle, beaches, attractions etc were not envisaged in the early days mainly due to lack of access. There were no roads in the early years. Caloundra became a nice get-away for families to visit for a short holiday, but the main area of industry was in the hinterland. Timber getting was the main industry and the Coast offered such a variety of trees, including red cedar, bunya, kauri pines, beech, tallow-wood and bloodwood. This was what built the foundation of the Coast that was north of Brisbane. It was later called the North Coast, before officially becoming the Sunshine Coast on 1 August 1967.

With the felling of the trees and the clearing of the rich volcanic soils for agriculture and grazing purposes and the establishment of coach stops every five (5) miles, towns

began to make appearances at these coach stops.

So how did we become what we are today?

LIEUTENANT JAMES COOK



Picture 1 On 17 May 1770, while sailing along the east coast of Queensland **Lieutenant James Cook** observed distinctive peaks and called them the “Glass Houses” as they reminded him of the glass making furnaces in his native Yorkshire in England.

JOSEPH BANKS



Picture 2 - Joseph Banks on the same voyage, observed water of a different colour discharging south into the ocean. This waterway was later to become known as Pumicestone Passage.

LIEUTENANT MATTHEW FLINDERS



Picture 3 - Lieutenant Matthew Flinders in 1799 named this body of water Pumicestone River, believing at the time it was a river. He named it Pumicestone because of the vast amounts of pumicestone scattered along the shoreline.

BONGAREE



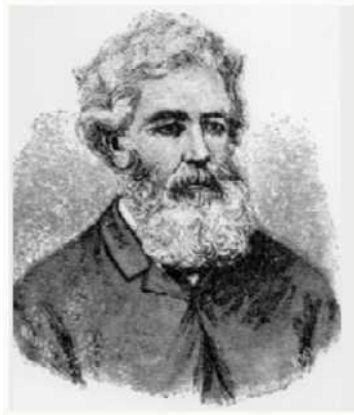
Picture 4 On 26 July 1799 Flinders, along with a native called Bongaree and two sailors climbed Beerburrum Mountain, the first Europeans to climb one of the Glass House Mountains. He was actually trying to find a big river but was unsuccessful. We now know this river as the Brisbane River.

CAPTAIN JOHN BINGLE



Picture 5 - In March 1822 Captain John Bingle took a boat party up the Pumicestone Passage from Point Skirmish through the mangroves and sand banks until he sighted the bar at Caloundra, thus proving the Passage was not a river.

ANDREW PETRIE



Picture 6 - Andrew Petrie made the first expeditions into the Sunshine Coast area in 1838 to investigate timber resources. He reported on the Aboriginal way of life and how important the Bunya Pine was to them. This brought about the Bunya Proclamation which prevented settlement or the granting of timber or cattle leases on land on which the Bunya Pine grew. This Proclamation was repealed in 1852 and by 1860 squatters and timber-getters were issued with leases.

CAPT JOHN CLEMENTS WICKHAM



Picture 7 - In 1847 Captain John Clements Wickham charted the north shores of Moreton Bay and named a headland north of Bribie Island, Wickham Point.

JOHN WESTAWAY



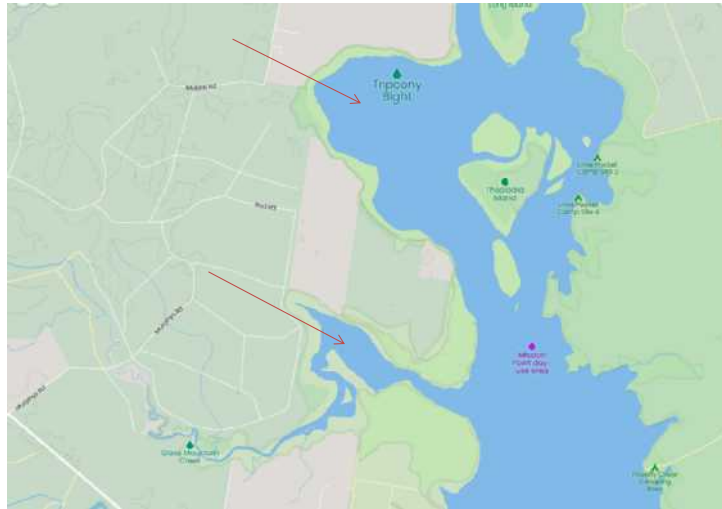
Edmund Lander was born on 24 January 1825 in Devonshire and arrived at Port Phillip in Victoria in 1849. He died at Mooloolah on 20 August 1878 and his grave has one of the earliest stones erected by his descendants in Mooloolah Cemetery. He applied in 1860 for a tender for Moolooloo Plains but the Crown Lands Office instead accepted an offer for the run from **John Westaway, (Picture 8)** who with his two sons, William and Richard, worked the run until 1867. They were the first European settlers to live near Caloundra – about 10km inland where the Caloundra Road and Bruce Highway turnoff is today. Edmund Lander had a number of runs but had difficulty with large numbers of aborigines who visited during the bunya season.

TRIPCONY FAMILY



Picture 9 - The Tripcony Family played a major role in the foundation years of Caloundra. Thomas Tripcony arrived in 1861 and was one of the early oystering pioneers of Pumicestone Passage. He was connected to both lime burning and oystering.

HUSSEY & GLASSHOUSE MTNS CREEK and TRIPCONY BIGHT



Picture 10 In 1876 the Tripconys acquired a selection of 1215 hectares and built a home they named Cowie Bank which was positioned between **Hussey and Glasshouse Mountain Creek about 20 kilometres east of Beerburum. Tripcony Bight** was named in his honour. This Bight is now a protected Fish Habitat which means no fishing allowed.

Thomas also had two islands in the Passage. The larger was called Goat Island because he kept goats there for sale to travellers. They were for food.

He commissioned the sailing boat "The Shadow" and surveyed and put the first beacons in the Passage in 1879.

His son, also called Tom Tripcony continued in the oyster business. He owned and operated a shallow draft oyster cutter named "Cowie" which transported oysters throughout Moreton Bay. Pumicestone Passage oysters had a reputation for being the finest. The oyster industry was nearly wiped out in 1909 by a worm infestation and by the 1920s the oyster industry was in serious trouble.

TRIPCONY'S STORE



Picture 11 Tom Tripcony Junior's sons, Andrew, Con and Thomas continued oystering for some time but branched out into transportation and fishing. Andrew married Margaret Cochrane in 1885 and they had 9 children. He bought Plummer's Cottage on Hibiscus Park in 1911 so his younger daughters could go to school. This would have been where the Big 4 Caravan Park is today opposite Caloundra Shopping Centre. He opened the **first store** in Caloundra on the verandah but this was closed in 1922 when his son-in-law, Ernie Rinaldi opened his store on Bulcock Street. This was the only store in Bulcock Street until the Bruce Highway was opened in 1934.

ANDREW TRIPCONY'S FLEET OF HIRE BOATS



Picture 12 Andrew also had a **fleet of hire boats**.

QUEEN OF THE COLONIES MEMORIAL



Picture 13 - Caloundra became more widely known due to 13 men who were marooned at Moffat Beach on 6 April 1863 when separated from the **Queen of the Colonies** during cyclonic squalls. The main party was rescued on 19 April but their story made the Brisbane press at the time. They were the first known, if involuntary, white residents of Caloundra.

The following year in 1864, inspired by the Queen of the Colonies saga, Alexander Archer rowed up the Passage and back. He wrote *'This place is called Calowndra. It would make a capital sea bathing place, as there are beautiful sites for houses, but it is too far from Brisbane to be much frequented for such purposes for many years to come'*.

BANKFOOT HOUSE

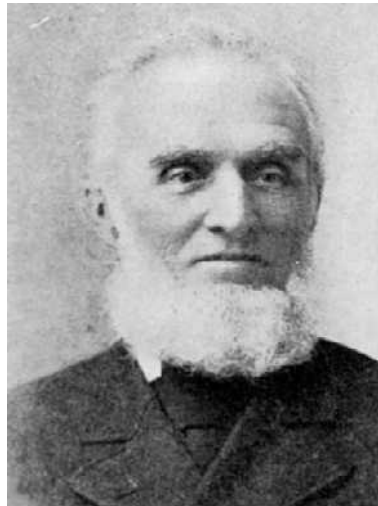


Picture 14 In 1868 Cobb & Co coaches establish a regular service on the Brisbane – Gympie run. This opens up more land. Along this route in Glass House you will still find Bankfoot House today. William and Mary Grigor established the house in 1868. It was lived in until 2002 when the last resident, Jack Ferris died at the age of 101. Bankfoot House is the oldest building in Glasshouse and is heritage listed.

In 1870 Charles Ballinger purchased land but never lived in Caloundra. His son, Thomas John Ballinger built a slab hut by the beach south of Lake Currimundi in 1881 and became the first European resident in Caloundra. The land was for sheep farming. His selection was on high land and known as Ballinger's Hill, later called Battery Hill after the Russian scare of 1882.

The Land Act of 1868 allowed the State Government to subdivide pastoral runs for closer settlement. Around 1870 Thomas John Ballinger established a landholding from the present day Hibiscus Family Holiday Park (Big 4) on the shores of the Passage. Ballinger, although the first landholder proper in Caloundra, never lived there.

ROBERT BULCOCK



Picture 15 - Robert Bulcock arrived in Queensland in December 1855 with his wife, Elizabeth and one son. All up they had 11 children. He was a staunch Methodist who had taken the "Pledge" to abstain from drinking hard liquor at the age of 8. Apparently he never deviated from that pledge. He became the President of the Temperance Council around 1857. His sons followed their father's strict Temperance views. It is rumoured that he placed a covenant on his land that no hotels should be built there. This was not broken until 1956.

Robert was a businessman in Brisbane. He was a director of the journal "Standard". In 1881 Robert did much to organise the large Liberal protest meeting against profiteering of contractors for steel rails. Robert retired from business and in 1885 to 1888 he represented Enoggera in the Legislative Assembly. He produced a temperance journal in 1887 called "Joy Bells". Robert sought strict supervision of electoral rolls, according to him, to ensure their purity. However, according to his opponents, he "stuffed them"! He was accused at one point of "Bulcocking the Rolls".

Robert was fearful of the rise of socialist ideas and of the Labor Party and concentrated on building an extra-parliamentary political organisation. In 1891 he established the Patriotic League as a basis for party organisation. It was renamed the Queensland Political Association and exerted much influence in government party circles. Of course, his activities earned the animosity of the Labor supporters who

called him “Joy Bells’ Bulcock” and his party “the Political Ass”. In 1894 he was nominated to the Legislative Council and held his seat until 1900.

Robert was seen as a man of strong character and appeared to the community as too stern and severe, yet he was held in much respect.

BULCOCK'S "THE HOMESTEAD"



Picture 16 - Robert was issued, on 8 November 1875, a new deed for 277 acres of land in the Caloundra district previously owned by Charles Ballinger. He paid £70. In 1885, he settled permanently in Caloundra. Robert built a seaside holiday home called "**The Homestead**" erected in 1878 overlooking what the family named 'Happy Valley'.

Robert Bulcock bought more land around Little Mountain in 1884. This land had two road proclamations across it, the top one became Sugarbag Road and the other eventually became the current Caloundra Road. So when we drive towards and through Caloundra today, we are crossing old Bulcock land. This is why the main street of Caloundra is called Bulcock Street.

FIRST LIGHTHOUSE



Picture 17 Land donations from the Bulcocks included the old lighthouse with its small park in Canberra Terrace. Initially an observation tower was built on this land which was manned by residents night and day in case there was a Russian warship invasion which was thought could happen in the 1880s. The Government took the threat of a Russian invasion very seriously resulting in Fort Lytton being built at the mouth of the Brisbane River in 1884. There was a temporary telegraph line erected to Caloundra with a permanent line in 1885. However, it was closed in 1887.

The lighthouse was built on this land in 1896. The **first lighthouse** was a corrugated iron structure. Carl B Edlundh was the first keeper. A lighthouse keeper's home was built which also served as a post office and a school.

On May 1900 he died suddenly from peritonitis. At the time of his death, of his 11 children, five sons and a daughter survived him.

JAMES CAMPBELL



Picture 18 The second resident in Caloundra was Samuel Saxby Leach, who in 1881 settled land at the junction of Pumicestone Passage and Bell's Creek, now known as Diamond Head. The holding was about 16 hectares. He was a fisherman who also worked as a raftsman for the Campbellville timber mill situated near the junction of Coochin and Mellum Creeks which flow into the Passage. Campbellville's primary purpose was to transport goods and timber to and from Brisbane from the rafting grounds.

The Passage was very important to Caloundra as it provided the means of transporting goods to and from Brisbane. A double-ended paddle steamer called the "Bribie" was built at Campbellville and ran between these two locations from 1883. However, this service was discontinued after six months as it did not pay. Another vessel called the "Mavis" ran until 1890 but the Passage was used until the 20th century to transport goods. Again this was because we had no roads.

Campbellville was established by **James Campbell**, whose ventures included the sawmill he established in 1881, the Sportman's Arms Hotel and store built in 1882 north of Mellum Creek on Old Gympie Road and the Buderim Mountain Sugar Mill which operated until 1889.

CAMPBELLVILLE CEMETERY



Picture 19 There is only a small cemetery remaining today where Campbellville once was.

LEACH BROTHERS

**William (Willie) Johnson Leach, Henry Arthur (Harry) Leach,
Samuel Saxby (Sam) Leach and Robert (Bob) Leach**



Picture 20 Samuel Leach had a disagreement with the government when they insisted that an Esplanade be built around his property along the passage and Bell's Creek. No-one living in the area could see why it would be needed! Where would we be today with that great land around the Esplanade to Bells Creek?

Samuel and his wife, Victoria Miles had a large family of nine children. He died in 1892 when a cart he was driving overturned after hitting a tree root not far from Beachmere. **Pictured are four of his sons, William (Willie) Johnson Leach, Henry Arthur (Harry) Leach, Samuel Saxby (Sam) Leach and Robert (Bob) Leach.**

There is a park called Leach Park at Golden Beach named in his honour. Golden Beach used to be known as Loch Lamerough.

WILLIAM LANDSBOROUGH



Picture 21 - William Landsborough was born on 21 February 1825 in Scotland. He arrived in Sydney on 30 September 1842, joining his brothers James and John on their New England property in NSW. He stayed with them until 1850. Then in 1851 gold was discovered in Bathurst so William Landsborough tried his hand at the diggings and left the gold fields a rich man. He gave up and rejoined his brothers in 1853. They had sold up and were driving their stock to the unsettled districts north of Brisbane. He took up his own land in 1854 in the Kolan River area just north of Bundaberg. At that time, this was the most northerly coastal settlement along the eastern seaboard of Australia. It was also where Landsborough began his career as an explorer.

Between 1856 and 1861 each year after the shearing was finished, he explored north and west, each time deeper into unknown territory. He explored north through to present day Gladstone, Mt Pisgah and Mt Fort Cooper where he took up a selection of land as well as at Broad Sound called Glen Prairie Holdings. In 1857 he explored the area where the town of Rockhampton now stands. In 1858 he travelled west from Rockhampton to Comet River. He sold his Kolan River land to finance the development of his Fort Cooper and Glen Prairie Holdings.

In 1859 he travelled north-west to the Leichhardt Range and the Burdekin and Cape Rivers. In 1860, in his longest and toughest journey of exploration, he travelled with Nat Buchanan and came across traditional tribal lands of the Iningai which he

renamed Bowen Downs. At the age of 35, Landsborough owned or part-owned over 1 million acres of land.

In August 1861 Landsborough was placed in charge of one of the four parties sent out to search for the lost explorers, Burke & Wills. His party commenced their search from the Gulf of Carpentaria. He was transported to this location by ship. On 1 October 1861 Landsborough's party arrived at the mouth of the Albert River at the current township of Burketown. They started their search for the lost explorers on 16 November 1861. He discovered and traced the Gregory River to its source. Little water could be found and with no trace of Burke & Wills, he returned north arriving at the depot at the Albert River on 19 January 1862. On 10 February Landsborough commenced another exploration in search of Burke & Wills. At Coongoola Station which was 50km south of present day Wyandra, they were advised of the fate of Burke & Wills. Obtaining provisions, the party continued south finally arriving in Melbourne one year after their start. Landsborough and his party were the first people to cross Australia from north to south.

Landsborough married Caroline Hollingsworth Raine in Sydney on 30 December 1862. They travelled to England via India and once there he was accorded the honour of being received by Queen Victoria. They returned to Australia in 1864 to find that their property at Broad Sound, Glen Prairie had been sold under mysterious circumstances.

SWEERS ISLAND



Picture 22 Landsborough was made a Life Member of the Queensland Legislative Council in 1865 but served for only one session. At the end of this year he was appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands, Police Magistrate and Sub-Collector of Customs for the district of Burke in the Gulf country. They lived on Sweers Island to avoid Gulf Fever, a form of typhoid, that was sweeping through Burketown. Their third child was born on this island and they named her Sweersena. Landsborough's wife, Caroline, died of tuberculosis in Sydney in 1869.

In September 1870, he returned to Brisbane. In June 1872 Landsborough was made Inspector of Brands for the Moreton District. He held this position for the rest of his life.

MARIA THERESA CARR



Picture 23 In 1873, William Landsborough married **Maria Theresa Carr**, a widow with two children. They had another three sons. Maria was born in Northern Ireland and had been reared in luxury. After the marriage Maria refused to do any cooking or housework which she considered to be servant's work. They spent their honeymoon at Bankfoot House.

FIG TREE PLANTED BY WILLIAM LANDSBOROUGH



Picture 24 In 1882 the Queensland parliament voted Landsborough £2,000 for his services as an explorer. With this money he purchased a pastoral property near present day Caloundra which he named Loch Lamerough. One of **the figs** that Landsborough planted on his Loch Lamerough property still stands today on the Esplanade, near Worthington Lane where there is a plaque. The tree came from Kilcoy Station and was planted by Landsborough between 1881 and 1886.

THE PLAQUE



Picture 25 He died and was buried beneath a stately eucalyptus tree near the Passage in March 1886. On 13 June 1913, his widow had him reburied at Toowong Cemetery in Brisbane. A bronze plaque was commissioned in 2019 by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. It is located in the middle of the present Golden Beach Shopping precinct. **The plaque** is inscribed:

"William Landsborough, born Scotland, 21 February 1825. Died Caloundra 10th March 1886. From 1856 to 1870 William Landsborough explored great tracts of Queensland and during his search for Burke and Wills became the first European to cross the continent from the Gulf to Melbourne. For a period he was Government Resident for the Burke District and was also appointed a member of the Upper House of Queensland. In 1881 he selected 2,372 acres calling it Loch Lamerough, now Golden Beach, Caloundra. William Landsborough was originally buried in Golden Beach in 1886. His remains being re-interred in the Toowong Cemetery on the 13th June 1913. He was Australia's most successful explorer."

As we know today, the town of Landsborough and a number of streets have been named after this great explorer.

JOHN TYTHERLEIGH IN FRONT OF ONE OF HIS STORES



Picture 26 - John Tytherleigh was born in London in 1867 and came to Queensland 19 years later in 1886. He first worked with storekeeper, Mr D McNab before starting his business on 23 June 1894. He sold drapery, clothing and footwear and rented a verandah at the local Landsborough Hall. As his business grew, he bought the hall which was located on the corner of Gympie and Maleny Roads in Landsborough.

CALOUNDRA UNIVERSAL PROVIDERS STORE



Picture 27 It is thought he moved his business in 1915 to Cribb Street Landsborough and later opened stores in Woombye, Maleny and Caloundra.

JOHN TYTHERLEIGH



Picture 28 - John was an influential member of the Great Road Committee which established the road north – now known as the Bruce Highway. He was in business in the district for more than 50 years.

On 22 February 1912 Landsborough Shire was established after separating from the Caboolture Divisional Board. The first meeting was held in Dyer's Hall on 12 April 1912 where John Tytherleigh was voted into office as Chairman. The Landsborough Shire Council office and Shire Clerk's residence was built on a hill overlooking the Landsborough-Maleny Road. The first meeting was held there on 17 June 1913 with incumbents Chairman Tytherleigh and Clerk, H J Hooper.

ROBERT BULCOCK JNR



Picture 29 - Going back to the Bulcocks, Robert Bulcock Snr's son, also called **Robert Bulcock** became a Councillor in 1917 to 1919. He represented Division 3 for the areas of Caloundra, Mooloolah and parts of Landsborough. Some of the early street names in Caloundra such as Dingle, Gay, and Bryce were named after early Landsborough Shire Councillors.

BULCOCK ESTATE SUBDIVISION



Picture 30 - It was during this period that part of the Bulcock family estate was **subdivided**. This was the beginning of Caloundra becoming a town. People opened shops, banks arrived, a cinema was established. There have been many changes over the years to our town.

CALOUNDRA TODAY



Picture 31 We owe a huge debt of thanks to those early settlers. How else could we be living in paradise today?