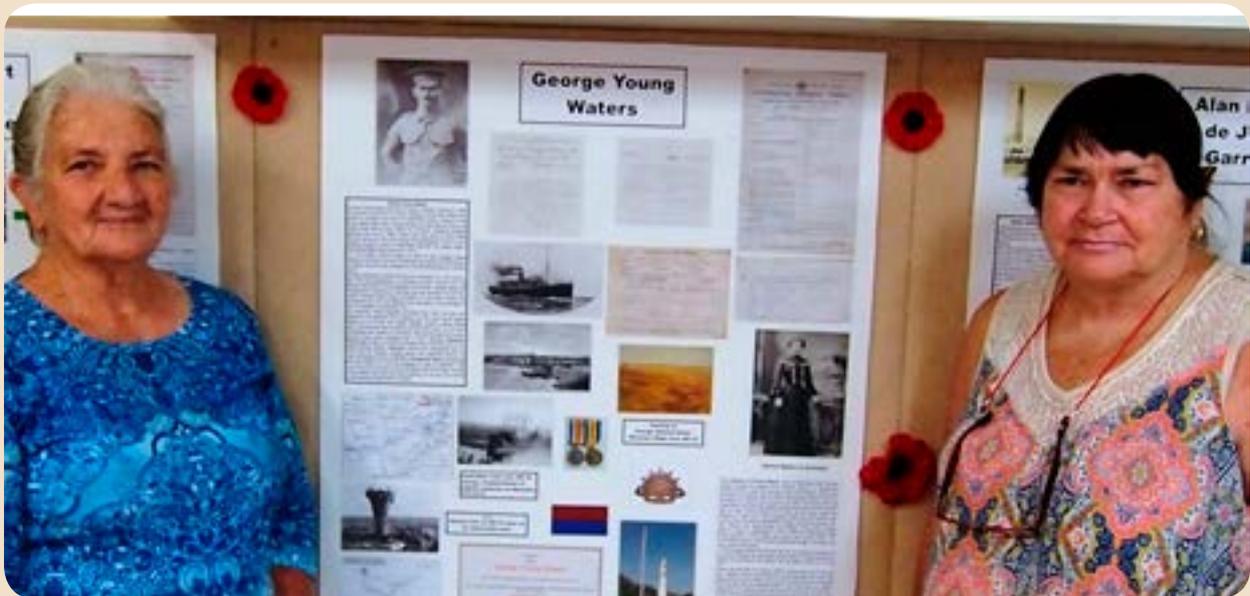




# Heritage News

October 2017



**Welcome to the summer edition of the Mackay Regional Heritage News**

The **Friends of the Pioneer Valley Museum** have recently launched the fifth in a series of Great War story panels.

This project commenced in 2014, and aims to honour those men and women who served in the "war to end all wars". There are 44 story panels in our collection so far with several more still being researched. We have commenced pinning these stories to the historypin.org website under the name '*Pioneer Valley Museum Great War Collection*' which comes under the 'Q ANZAC

100' Collection run by the State Library. The State Library team, which recently visited the museum plans to tell of these stories in its blog.

Other exhibitions include the story of Albert Fudge, the man who designed and built the cane derricks used widely around the region. Several old derricks can still be seen in the Valley.

The Museum is open Tuesday to Thursday from 9.30am to 2.30pm. We will open for groups on any other day by prior arrangement. The Friends gather every Wednesday to undertake a Collection Care visit.

**The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has been undertaking maintenance on the historic Leap Cane Lift.**

The Leap Cane Lift is located within the State-controlled road corridor and was entered on the Queensland Heritage Register in February 2010. In 2016, TMR engaged a structural engineer and a heritage professional to develop a conservation management plan.

TMR completed an initial phase of works which included vegetation clearing and management, drainage and





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fencing. The restoration works currently underway include structural repairs to the lift, works to provide parking and installation of information signage so that people can visit the site and read about history of the cane lift.

The structures were widely used to transport cane in the early years of the Mackay sugar industry. When cane was harvested by hand, it was loaded onto a horse drawn wagon or motorised vehicle and taken to the nearest siding, where cane lifts were used to transfer the cane on to tram or rail wagons.

The Leap Cane Lift was associated with the tram line built to service Farleigh Mill and the fields along Bonsons Scrub Road. Cane lifts were used at The Leap from the 1890's, up until the mid-1960s, when the introduction of mechanical harvesters rendered the structures obsolete. The restoration works will help preserve an important part of Mackay's history for future generations.

TMR welcomes community input into the information signage, including old photographs and stories about early sugar days. To get involved please contact TMR's Cultural Heritage team via email [mackay.office@tmr.qld.gov.au](mailto:mackay.office@tmr.qld.gov.au) or phone 4951 8555.



The revamped Leap Cane Lift, Bruce Highway, The Leap

**Meanwhile, the Mackay Historical Society and Museum Inc.** have re-elected their committee at the AGM of the society on Saturday, 5 August 2017. Results are:

- Jack Armstrong, President
- Steven Pritchard, Vice President
- Judy Stewart, Secretary
- Helen Martin, Treasurer
- Gaye Smith, Registrar and
- Research and Publicity Officer

The society has now been operating in Mackay for 45 years as of August 10, 2017.

The Mackay Museum at 4 Casey Ave, is open Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 2pm. The Museum will close on November 30, 2017, reopening in February 2018.

**The Friends of Greenmount Homestead Inc. are proud their Vice President has gained a position on the 2018 Open Palace program.**

The program is a unique 20-day hands-on experience in some of the UK's finest palaces and heritage sites.

The program gives participants a new perspective on practiced heritage specialisms and is endorsed by Historic Royal Palaces.

While in the UK Mr McDougall will gain experience and privileged access to historic sites including the Tower of London, Kensington Palace and Hampton Court Palace. Nicholas will bring learnings from the UK back to the region to benefit Greenmount and to the other museums of Mackay.