



Heritage News

July 2017



Welcome to the first edition of the Mackay Regional Heritage News, with updates from heritage experts across the region.

The **Mackay Museum** (pictured above) will be conducting its Annual General Meeting for 2017 on 5 August, 2017 at 2pm at the Mackay Museum at 4 Casey Ave. The August monthly meeting will be held directly after the AGM. All welcome.

Members have spent time this year refreshing the museum with new displays to entice locals to visit.

New displays include:

- A South Sea Islanders display to commemorate the 150th year anniversary of the arrival of the first South Sea Islanders in Mackay on May 13, 1867. The Islanders were vital to the development of Mackay's sugar industry.
- A cinema display which includes Mackay and the surrounding district. Visitors to the museum will be able to relax in original 'Princess Theatre' seats and watch Mackay tourist newsreels from the 1960s

The Mackay & District Military Museum Assoc. Inc. has formed close relationships with community organisations since its inception.

Each year the group participates in the ANZAC Day parade, Rats of Tobruk parades, Greenmount Heritage Fair and biannually at Wings & Wheels. Our alliance with the Rats of Tobruk Association has allowed the group to place military displays in local Rats of Tobruk schools. The group holds exhibitions for local primary and secondary schools



Heritage News



Greenmount Homestead aerial view, 2017

around the district and provides a comprehensive presentation to appreciative students and teachers.

The association does not have a permanent home but if you are a member of a community group or school and would like us to visit don't hesitate to speak with us - we will be happy to accommodate your enquiry, on our Facebook page or by email: militarymuseummky@hotmail.com

A visit to the region is never complete without a trip to Greenmount Homestead.

Greenmount's display group, has developed a list of projects that will be ongoing during the remainder of 2017 and into 2018.

The aim is to create visitor interest by introducing new displays to our Resource Centre space that will combine both Cook and our local district history. We have a big list of potential displays including the Sugar Act with contributions from George Christiansen; Vida Cook artwork; Governor Smith's visit and more so watch this space!

The Region is truly blessed with so many interested in preservation of our heritage.

Visit Chris Vaughan at the privately-owned **"Yesterdays Memories"** museum of antiques, vintage collectables, social history, dolls and toys and handmade crafts. Call first, 7 days on 4954 0621. Located on the corner of the Bruce Highway and Balnagowan-Mandarana Road 16kms north of town.

Finally, the **Mackay Family History Society**, which has been operating for 36 years, continues to provide valuable research on ancestry and local families. Members are even experienced with DNA testing!

Currently the society is undertaking a number of indexing projects for local baptism and marriage records and burial registers for Mt Bassett. You can find them at 17B Keith Hamilton Street or on Facebook. Opening hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9am to 3pm and Tuesdays 9am to noon.

Don't forget your Museums Super Pass which gives unlimited annual access to all the region's museums at very reasonable rates!