



GREENMOUNT HOMESTEAD

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Mackay's Pioneer Settlement Homestead



Opening hours:

Visit between 9.30am and 12.30pm, Sunday to Friday.
Closed Saturdays and public holidays.

Location:

Greenmount Road, Greenmount, Queensland
approximately 5km west of Walkerston township.

Phone: (07) 4959 2250.

Entry fees apply.

Mackay Regional Council
Civic Precinct, Gordon Street
PO Box 41 Mackay
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Phone 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529)
Fax 07 4944 2400

Email council@mackay.qld.gov.au
www.mackay.qld.gov.au

Self guided tours

Visit Greenmount and take a self guided tour of the homestead, visitor's centre, yards and workshop areas. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy within the grounds and gardens.

See a snapshot of how life was within the Cook residence, or maybe get reacquainted with items from your own childhood. Greenmount Homestead is sure to spark memories for some.





A homestead with history

Greenmount Homestead was gifted to the Pioneer Shire Council (now Mackay Regional Council) in February 1984 by Dorothy Cook, after her husband Thomas Albert Cook passed away in 1981. Complete with furniture, household items, diaries, letters and photographs, it was always the intention of the Cook family to preserve their home and to see it become a museum for future generations.

Greenmount Homestead is perhaps Mackay's most historically significant site, with over 20,000 pieces of history on display. The grounds and gardens also played an important part in the Cook family life – they feature a fernery, a formal front garden and arbour.

In 2012, Mackay celebrated 150 years as a city. As part of the year-long celebrations, a time capsule was buried at Greenmount. The capsule, full of items submitted by the community, is to be reopened in 2062.



Pioneering days

The city of Mackay is named after John Mackay, a young pioneer who took up land in the early 1860s. Mackay drove 1200 head of cattle up from Armidale in New South Wales, to establish a cattle station on the southern bank of the Pioneer River, which he called Greenmount. The site on which he constructed his stockyards and slab hut, is now known as Green Knoll which is visible from the Greenmount grounds.

In 1862, Thomas Cook's grandfather, John Cook, drove almost 1000 head of cattle up to the area and proceeded to build a life for himself and his family at Balnagowan on the northern bank of the river.

In 1912, Thomas's father, Albert Cook, who was the youngest son of John Cook, acquired Greenmount, where he then built the homestead in 1915. Albert married and had three children – Thomas, John and Althea. The homestead was later passed on to Thomas and his wife Dorothy, who managed the property until it was gifted to council.

Gloria Arrow came to Greenmount in 1958 at the age of 17 to work for Tom and Dorothy as a live-in housemaid and later, housekeeper. She continued to work for them until 1983 and still resides there today.

