

A History of Brooloo

***(Courtesy of Beth Wilson, Local
History Officer, Gympie Regional
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In 1851, John David MacTaggart took up the selection tender for two leasehold 16 000 acre blocks known as Bunya Creek and Bluff Plains.

This lease he held until 6 years later when the Lawless brothers, Paul and Clement, took over and introduced cattle instead of sheep to the property, and named it Imbil Station.

In 1875 Mellor and Elsworthy took over the Station and held it until 1884.

They were among the first timber getters for red cedar in the area, and as the land was cleared, the pastures were suited to cattle grazing.

This helped supply the Mellor' s butcher shops in Gympie, which helped feed the growing gold mining population.

Imbil Station was eventually split between the members of the Lawless, Mellor and Elworthy families.

1851 also saw a small gold rush at Breakneck Creek which ran alongside the Diggings Rd which was short lived, but had a short resurgence in 1867.

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“Brooloo Bluff” near Brooloo

The portion of land that was set aside for the township of Brooloo belonged to Mr George Sutton, who had taken it up in 1907.

The original township map shows the name of “Dewarill” , but this was changed when the railway was established to “The Bluff” .

The 1880’ s saw small releases of land grants of around 160 acres.

Early names included Meyers, Jorgenson, Ticknell and Hensen, others applied but either withdrew applications or were rejected.

On 21 March, 1908 41,600 acres in the Brooloo parish was set aside as state forest under the recently passed Forestry act.

Land had been designated State Forest before this, the area being 65 square miles extending from little Yabba Creek in the south to Yabba creek in the north.

This caused tension between timbergetters and the Government in respect to the harvesting of the timber from certain reserves in the years to come.

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“Brooloo Bluff” near Brooloo

References

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* **Pedley, I.** - (1979), ‘Winds of Change: One Hundred Years in the Widgee Shire’, Gympie Times.

* **Long, J.** - (1972), ‘A Glimpse into the Past: Reminiscences of Gympie, Chatsworth, Cooroy, Amamoor and Dagon’, Gympie Libraries.

*Newspaper articles from the Brisbane Courier

The name was changed yet again when the railway station was opened to Brooloo, most settlement beginning in 1914 with a land sale, another one was held in 1921; the Mary Valley Rail’ s terminus was at Brooloo.

In 1915 the name of the school and town was changed from Bluff Plains to Brooloo, when the district was renamed Brooloo.

Brooloo was a thriving town supporting Timber, banana and other small crops industries.

There were suggestions from later in 1915 onwards to extend the railway through to Conondale, but this never eventuated.

***Smith, N.** - (2007), ‘Brooloo School 1907 – 2007: ‘We are lucky kids we went to Brooloo School’, Neville Smith.