

4 Eastern Beaches

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4.1 LAKE WEYBA

LOCATION

Lake Weyba is situated to the south of the main Noosa River system and is joined to it by the sinuous Weyba Creek.¹ It is the lake closest to the mouth of the river and measures some four kilometres from north to south, with a breadth of some three kilometres at its broadest cross section. It is thus the Noosa River system's second largest water body in surface area after Lake Cootharaba. The lake has a somewhat nipped waistline, due to the intrusion of a rocky outcrop, aptly named Rocky Point; about halfway along its western shore and a vegetated sandy curved area virtually opposite.²

The lake is separated from the ocean littoral behind Sunrise Beach/ Marcus Beach by vegetated sand dunes.³

TENURE

The surface area of Lake Weyba to its high water mark is State controlled. Virtually the entire eastern shore line forms a border for the Lake Weyba Section of the Noosa National Park and so, is also under state government control. The southern shore virtually from the mouth of Murdering Creek west, is privately owned and, apart from a mangrove-type buffer along the shoreline, contains semi-rural developments, including a church school's outdoor education campus

The western shore also is entirely privately owned. The north eastern corner of another, separate portion of the Lake Weyba Section of the Noosa National Park comes very close to the shoreline but is separated from it by a quite narrow corridor.

Northerly from this is the small privately owned rural residential development which forms the end of Eumarella Road, and which extends as far as Rocky Point.

Further to the north along the western shoreline, Eenie Creek enters the lake and as the northern shore is approached, is situated the Noosa airport and the exit from the lake of Weyba Creek.

The remaining portion of the northern shoreline, east of Weyba Creek, is also privately owned

DESCRIPTION

The lake is a saline, very shallow part of the Noosa River system. It is linked to the river by Weyba Creek

4.1.1 BRIEF HISTORY

This study will be confined to the actual surface area of Lake Weyba only, but it must be mentioned that for more than one hundred years settlers have come and gone along its shores and these have influenced the present state of the lake's integrity to lesser or greater extents. Furthermore, if future developments are not managed carefully, its integrity will be considerably threatened in years to come. There is, for example, a major commercial development envisaged for the Eenie Creek area: the Noosa Shire Business Centre, separated from the lake by some three or four kilometres, but with inherent water run-off problems likely to have a silting effect and possibly a desalination effect as well. Control of stormwater discharge in accordance with government control measures should, however, ensure that waterways are prevented from being used as drains to eliminate this problem.

The lake's name is understood to derive from the Aboriginal word for "Stingray", which gathered in large numbers in the shallow waters at the lake's entry.⁴ Aboriginal people frequented the lake and its shores, being gradually displaced by settlers.⁵ Their shell middens were later used to construct the Shire's roads and a bora ring was destroyed in a road to the airport.⁶

Lake Weyba is overall very shallow with a bottom consisting of mobile sandy shoals. Denis Gittoes claims that virtually nowhere within the lake is the depth much more than one metre, with the outer rim averaging only half of that. No doubt because of this, and due to its eastern and, to a much more limited extent, its southern mangrove foreshores, it plays a major role in the food chain for marine animals. Consequently commercial fishing has been a feature of its history since the coming of the Europeans.⁷

¹ The body of water in Lake Weyba is actually outside of the Noosa Shire. The north-western shore of Lake Weyba is in Noosaville and the eastern shore is part of Castaways Beach, Marcus Beach and Peregrin beach.

² Dennis Gittoes' Map of the Cooloolooloo Coast, 1996.

³ Monks, Colin, *Noosa The Way It Was The Way It Is Now*, Tewantin, Colin Monks, 2000, p.20.

⁴ Lascelles, Leon, pers. Comm., October 2000

⁵ Monks, Op cit, p.4-6. 16,21, 31, 32 & 35

⁶ *ibid*, p.21

⁷ Elaine Kreen & associates, *Historical and Cultural Heritage Survey of the Noosa, Maroochy and Mooloolah Rivers* for The Maroochy-

By 1880, Noosa's first professional fishermen, Joseph Keyser, had settled on Lake Weyba's north eastern shore. Legend has it that Keyser took smoked fish (mullet) to sell in Gympie in a wheelbarrow, over 50 miles of rough bullock tracks with his son, Elija pulling in front by a homemade harness. Keyser also apparently put a canal, called Keyser's Canal, across a narrow deck of land near the lake's mouth to shorten the distance for rowing boats.⁸

The lake is also a habitat for various types of water bird, especially pelicans. Many other species, however, find shelter and rest on its shallower reaches from time to time, depending upon seasonal conditions. It will assist this aspect of the lake's ecological usefulness by the 1993 gazettal of it as a Fish Habitat Reserve, thus strengthening the existence of a viable food chain for birdlife as well as for fishes.

The lake remains well drained, with Murdering Creek and Weyba Creek entering it from the south, Horseman Creek, Keyser Creek and Eenie Creek coming in from the west, and all input being drained from the north by Weyba Creek.



The lake is, of course, tidal and is kept flushed out to a certain, but by no means a marked, extent by this influence. The smallness of this influence is due to the fact that the tidal movements enter and exit via the same source: there is no 'through' movement to carry pollutants out of the lake: exactly the same situation that prevails, indeed, with the smaller Lake Doonella. The tidal changes within Lake Weyba are not large by any means and this also would lessen the good these movements could do in purging the lake of pollutants.

There has been expounded the theory that the Noosa River once, in earlier geological eras, did not have its mouth at the western end of Noosa Heads' main beach as it now does. Rather, the theory goes, it actually entered the sea via the southern end of Lake Weyba, possibly having used the watercourses of Murdering Creek and Burgess Creek.⁹ This would obviously have been of great benefit in flushing out the lake and, if correct, may even have had an influence on its present structure.

4.1.2 HISTORICAL THEMES

This place illustrates the following historical themes in Noosa Shire based on the Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidelines for Historical & Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001:-

- 2 (f) Developing rural economies - managing and conserving land, water, flora and fauna: fish habitat;
- 2 (b) Developing rural economies - displacing aboriginal people: campsite (lake, midden, canoe tree & bora ring); and
- 2 (c) Developing rural economies - developing extractive industries (fishing): fished lake.

Mooloolah-Noosa Water Quality Management Committee as part of the South East Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Strategy, p.38.

⁸ Bull, DW. "Shortcut to Gympie Gold - Short stories of Tewantin and the Sunshine Coast", Mrs FH Watson, Yeerongilly, 1982. p.49

⁹Pers. comm., Jack Symons in Adams, Rod, *Noosa and Gubbi Gubbi*, Ultreya Publications, Tewantin, Qld. 2000, p.17.

4.1.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Lake Weyba and all other waterways to the Noosa district overall cannot be emphasised enough. From the ecological viewpoint they are vital since these natural resources provide Noosa with the unique background that has actually forged its very culture. From the recreational aspect the lake provides good fishing and quiet boating, and aesthetically it has areas of great beauty, particularly vistas across it at sunrise and sunset.

It is recommended that Noosa Council consider assessment criteria a, b, d, e, g and h of the Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidelines for Historical & Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001 as relevant to this place.

4.1.4 INTEGRITY

At present the integrity of Lake Weyba is very good. It is, however, in constant danger from the ecologically debilitating effects of urban, industrial and even agricultural pursuits in its immediate environment.

Fortunately for the lake itself, it is too shallow to allow exploitation by way of vigorous water sports, such as water skiing, jet boating and so on. There is, thus, no evidence of any imbalance in its integrity likely to come from these sources. Over fishing could be a problem, however, if not guarded against.

4.2 MURDERING CREEK

LOCATION	Southern end of Lake Weyba
TENURE	Reserve
DESCRIPTION	A small creek flowing north into Lake Weyba



4.2.1 BRIEF HISTORY

Murdering Creek is a small creek located on the southeast corner of Lake Weyba, and draining into the Lake. It is the second largest of eight catchments radiating from the shores of Lake Weyba. The creek is in reality a tidal channel reflecting the even slope of the catchment of the Lake.

The origin of the name of the creek is uncertain. It is reputed to be a reference to the results of a punitive expedition mounted by stockmen from Yandina Station against local Aborigines, many of whom were murdered at or near a site on the creek¹⁰. The date of the incident has never been accurately determined but is believed to have occurred in the 1860s.

In his book, *Short Cut to Gympie Gold Short stories of Tewantin and the Sunshine Coast*, historian David Bull chillingly describes the alleged ambush and massacre of a group of Aborigines at Murdering Creek.¹¹ The alleged incident was also noted by Rev Edward Fuller, a Primitive Methodist missionary who in 1972 transferred his Aboriginal mission station from North White Cliffs on Fraser Island to a 10 000 acre Reserve granted by the Government at Noosa Heads.¹² And there is a brief reference in Heap's survey of the early settlement of the Maroochy District.¹³

¹⁰ John and Francis Windolf in their work *A Concise History of the Coolum District*, 1986 give a possible location for the incident, but do not indicate how they arrived at their conclusion.

¹¹ David W. Bull, *Short Cut to Gympie Gold Short stories of Tewantin and the Sunshine Coast* Brisbane, F H Watson, 1982 pp., 33-34. Bull alleges that the Aborigines were lured into the mouth of Murdering Creek and shot by a party of eight men.

¹² Rev. E. Fuller, 'A Private Letter to a Friend in Ipswich', *The Brisbane Courier*, Thursday 3 October 1872, p. 6.

¹³ E. G. Heap, 'In the Wake of the Raftsmen (A survey of early settlement in the Maroochy District up to the passing of the Crown Lands Alienation Act, 1868)', Part III, *Queensland Heritage*, vol. 5, pp. 9-20.

The incident could not have taken place before 1853, the date Daniel and Zacharias Skyring applied for cattle runs to be called Whidlka Whidlka, Canando and Yandina¹⁴— there were few if any non-Aboriginal people in the area. Additionally, there were no 'settlers' in the area during the 1860s except for these cattlemen, and no provision in the Land Act 1860 for the alienation of Crown Land except for the siting of townships or for agricultural reserves purposes which had to be adjacent to towns of some size.

During the period 1853 and 1868 the population of the area south of the Noosa River at any given time consisted at best a handful of cattlemen and often only a manager and his family. It was common practice in this area, like elsewhere in the Queensland cattle industry, to use Aboriginal labour for much of the work. Even after the land was opened for selection under the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868, the land occupied first on the old Yandina run abutted the Maroochy River, and did not include any of the lessees of the surrounding cattle runs.¹⁵

In the whole area there were only four selections adjacent to the town of Tewantin which were part of the old Pooreema run — Grainger Ward's selection of Portion 55 which was surveyed on the Plan M37.18 about 1869 or 1870; F G Goodchap's selection of Portion 106 which was surveyed on the Plan M37.35 about 1870 or 1871; Walter Hay's selection of Portion 151 which was surveyed on the Plan M37.63; and a second Walter Hay selection of Portion 167 which was surveyed on the Plan 37.93 about 1871. The only other selection in the vicinity of Lake Weyba was one on the western bank of the Lake — Robert Henry Godber's selection of Portion 160 Parish of Weyba on the 1/9/1871, which was later, surveyed on Plan M37.90). It was a long time before there was any demand for land adjacent to Lake Weyba,¹⁶ which would indicate just how thinly populated the area was when selection began at the beginning of the 1870s. The other Europeans in the area from the mid-1860s were the timber-getters; however these were operating to the north of the Noosa River.

That there was an incident is probable, and it could have occurred any time between 1853 and 1868, but the most likely cause would have been spearing of cattle by the Aborigines, a common problem for the cattlemen and an understandable act by the Aborigines. For the reasons stated above, Windolf's explanation that the incident occurred because 'settlers...were worried that the Government would not grant freehold title to it [their leases] while there were Aborigines living there'¹⁷ is a rather spurious one.¹⁸

If there was an incident, it is evident it has been embellished over the years and especially by writers in recent times¹⁹. The early descriptions, based on David Bull's account are at best tentative. 'Judging from some of the other myths he [David Bull] has perpetuated, without supporting evidence his account of Murdering Creek must be suspect.'²⁰

4.2.2 HISTORICAL THEMES

This place illustrates the following historical theme in the Noosa Shire based on the Environmental Protection Agency's, *Guidelines for Historical and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001

2(b) Developing rural economies – displacing Aboriginal people/frontier conflict: conflict site (creek)

4.2.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The incident surrounding the naming of Murdering Creek indicates the historical importance of the place to indigenous and non-indigenous people. Present day Gubbi Gubbi people conduct regular ceremonies of remembrance at the Creek.²¹ Even if further research reveals that fewer Aboriginal people were killed than has been estimated by writers like David Bull who describe it as a 'massacre', the name is a present day reminder that the contact history of the Shire is not dissimilar to other areas of Queensland or Australia.

It is recommended that Noosa Shire Council consider assessment criteria a, c and h based on the Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidelines for Historical and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001, as relevant to this place.

This site should be considered for inclusion in the proposed study of Indigenous Cultural Heritage places within the Shire.

¹⁴ E. G. Heap, 'In the Wake of the Raftsmen A survey of early settlement in the Maroochy District up to the passing of the Crown Lands Alienation Act, 1868', Part I, *Queensland Heritage*, vol. 4, pp. 3-16.

¹⁵ Robert Fleming selected numbers 1387 and 1386 on 16.10.1871, which were surveyed as Portions 13, and 14; Selection 1405 (the site of the former Yandina homestead) was selected by Fleming on 6.11.1871 and was surveyed as Portion 15.

¹⁶ The Woolloongabba Exemplar Co-operative Settlement on the south west side of Lake Weyba in 1894 was a failure. This group represented a social experiment in communal living, and was supported by the Queensland Government. It was not until after 1912 that land on the southern side of the Lake was selected, while the Lands Department Map of 1931 shows that there was only one selection on the eastern side and it was not freehold.

¹⁷ John and Francis Windolf, *A Concise History of the Coolum District*, Coolum Beach, John & Francis Windolf, 1986, pp. 8-10.

¹⁸ It is also worthwhile noting that the selection records at the Queensland State Archives do not indicate that persons applying for land selections in the area encountered any difficulties at the time of their applications.

¹⁹ Ray Kerkhove, 'A Concise Aboriginal History of the Sunshine Coast' 1986, unpublished, Foundation For Aboriginal and Islanders Research Action; Windolf, unpublished

²⁰ Fink, Fred 'Comment on the alleged massacre at Murdering Creek' typescript notes, n.d.

²¹ Eve Fesl, pers. comm., 2000.

4.3 WOOLLOONGABBA EXEMPLARS GROUP, LAKE WEYBA

DATES 1893

DESCRIPTION 'The area shall be about 9,700 acres, in the parishes of Weyba and Maroochy, Land Agents' Districts of Gympie and Brisbane, comprised within the boundaries hereafter described - Commencing at the north-east corner of portion 1057, parish of Maroochy, and bounded thence on the west by portions 1057, 1132, 1315, 111v and 173; on the south by portions 172, 103v, 153, 164v, 165v, 71, 20, 73, and 81, and a line east from the north-east corner of the latter portion to the point of commencement, inclusive of land required for roads, reserves, or other public purpose.'²²

4.3.1 BRIEF HISTORY

In April 1892 the Queensland government appointed a Select Committee on Assisted Land Settlement.²³ This was in response to a number of economic factors brought about by the economic depression in Australia. One of the responses to this economic downturn in the economy which resulted in high unemployment in Queensland, and Brisbane in particular, was for the government of the day to seriously examine the socialist demands of William Lane and his fellow left wing critics. Lane was born in Bristol England in 1861 and arrived in Brisbane in 1885 from America. In his work and travel he had seen first hand the socialist communal experiments in both that country and Europe.

Lane was an intellectual and he worked as a reporter before becoming co-editor of the socialist magazine *The Boomerang* in 1887 that soon became the most popular and widely read Queensland weekly newspaper of the time.²⁴ Lane in 1890 became editor of *The Worker* a left wing Brisbane newspaper owned by the Queensland Trades and Labour Council.

In 1887 he started a Bellamy Society in Brisbane to promote the study of utopian communalism. 'While churches of the time believed that favourable social changes could only come about by changing people, Lane thought that people were naturally good, but that their social and economic environment needed changing.'²⁵ However Lane gave up hope that the Queensland government would be interested in his ideas, and decided to establish his utopian New Australia commune in South America. In mid-1893 he left Queensland for Paraguay with several hundred followers (many from Queensland).

Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Committee recommended that legislation be enacted to facilitate and provide financial support for communal settlements in Queensland. The Queensland Co-operative Land Settlement Act was passed and came into force on 13 October 1893, and a special office was opened in Brisbane to deal with the anticipated rush of applications.

The Act provided for groups of thirty or more males to apply for a perpetual lease in the name of their commune on up to 155 acres (65 hectares) of land per member. Women could not be members in their own right but took part as sisters, daughters or wives. The commune had to be made up of British born or naturalised British subjects who had lived in Queensland for at least the past twelve months. It had to lodge a set of rules and a name with the Minister for Public Lands. Disputes were to be internally arbitrated and expulsions from the group were to be decided by a two-thirds majority. More than half the membership had to permanently reside on the land within three months of establishment, and never less than half the members should be in residence. The commune could be wound up if its membership dropped below thirty, or two-thirds of its maximum number. The government was to advance £20 per member to help buy food, tools and stock.

Each commune had one, or sometimes a few, key organisers, who believed in socialism and communalism and who wanted to use this new and innovative legislation to develop a better life. But the requirement to have a minimum of thirty men in the group in order to be registered, and with the Lands Department having the right to assign men to groups, it was not uncommon to have communes made up of strangers. Charles Watson was the organiser of the Woolloongabba Exemplars. He later described his membership as consisting of '...two or three were brother Good Templars, who had been my personal friends for many years; besides these there were six others my intimate friends. The remainder, who all furnished testimony as to their integrity of purpose, were all strangers to me.'²⁶

The Woolloongabba Exemplar Co-operative Settlement had 59 members (237 individuals) and settled on 9 700 acres (3 930 hectares) of land on the Noosa Shire shores of Lake Weyba in the Parish of Weyba and Maroochy. The land was inspected on 24 January 1894 and on 10 February 1894 the commune was proclaimed as a communal group and was granted £708 in aid.²⁷

²² *Queensland Government Gazette* v LXI (29) 10 February 1894, p. 322.

²³ QSA, 'Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Assisted Land Settlement', *Votes and Proceedings of Queensland Legislative Assembly*, 1887, V4, pp. 77-204.

²⁴ J Mathews *The Influence of William Lane on the Queensland Labour Movement*, Brisbane unpublished Honours thesis, University of Queensland, 1954, p. 36.

²⁵ B Metcalf *The Gayndah Communes* Rockhampton Central Queensland University Press 1998, p. 4.

²⁶ *The Brisbane Courier*, 20 June 1895, p. 6.

²⁷ *Queensland Government Gazette* v LXI (29) 10 February 1894, p. 322.

By May 1894 the group had split into two with one group setting up a settlement at Lake Weyba and the other moving to Yandina Creek.²⁸ The *Gympie Times* correspondent at the same time reported that at Lake Weyba a substantial store and other smaller buildings has been erected and a half acre garden had been established and a further two acres of land had been stumped.

Another correspondent a month later wrote that at the Yandina settlement potatoes were being cultivated in a fenced area opposite a '...strongly built house with chimney and bark roof...' ²⁹ occupied by Owen McCormack of the group and that twelve acres of scrub had been cleared. At Lake Weyba there were substantial cottages being built and a sixty-foot jetty (along with a smokehouse and drying shed for curing fish). The Group members had ploughed two and a half acres for the planting of oats and a school was being built.³⁰

However, by September 1894 the Group was reported to be '...on its last legs...' a position that '...most local selectors predicted...from the start [since] most of the land was wallum flats that would not feed a bandicoot.'³¹ On 13 December 1894 the leader of the Group, George Chale Watson, wrote a letter to the Editor of the *Gympie Times* declaring that the Group was now defunct. A year later the *Gympie Times* published a report that claimed the only five or six of the original fifty-nine families remained at Lake Weyba.³²

The Co-operative Community Settlement Act 1893 Amendment Act 1896 meant that the Group's land title was extinguished, and all communal rights were cancelled. Those members who had remained on the communal land were now eligible to apply for up to 65 hectares of that previously communally held land, on a leasehold basis with provision for later converting to freehold tenure.³³

Under this legislation, Thomas Meredith Price on 29 February 1896 applied for Selection no. 940, Portion 4V Parish of Weyba (32 acres, 1 rood, 5 perches) that was freeholded on 5 September 1901; Claus Nielsen selected 160 acres, Portion 5V Parish of Weyba on 29 February 1896 (Selection no. 941). The forfeiture on this property was declared on 25 October 1896, and the land was reselected as Agricultural Farm 1331 under the Land Act 1897. Alfred Edwards selected 158 acres, 3 roods, 30 perches (Portion 6V, Parish of Weyba) on 29 February 1896 (Selection no. 942), which was freeholded on 9 May 1902.³⁴ The *Gympie Times* reported that a fourth member had selected land outside the area.³⁵

4.3.2 HISTORICAL THEMES

This place illustrates the following historical themes in the Noosa Shire based on the Environmental Protection Agency's, *Guidelines for Historical and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001

2(d) Developing rural economies – encouraging selection, closer settlement and immigration): group settlement (selection); and

2(e) Developing rural economies – encouraging agriculture and agriculture related industries.

4.3.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

More research needs to be conducted into the presence of any physical remains that will indicate the exact location of the two settlements established by the group.

It is recommended that Noosa Shire Council consider assessment criteria a, c and h under the *Guidelines for Historical and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001, as relevant to this place.

²⁸ *Gympie Times*, 1 May 1894.

²⁹ *Gympie Times*, 14 June 1894.

³⁰ In August 1894 Miss Jane Watson applied for admission as a teacher at Lake Weyba Provisional School to the Under Secretary for Education. She remained the teacher until the School was officially closed on 5 August 1895. EDU/Z1555, QSA.

³¹ *Gympie Times*, 29 September 1894.

³² *Gympie Times*, 17 October 1895.

³³ QSA, *Queensland Government Gazette*, 1895, pp. 1337-9.

³⁴ QSA, LAN/164, pp. 79-81.

³⁵ *Gympie Times*, 5 March 1896.

4.4 ST ANDREWS ANGLICAN CHURCH

LOCATION	0 Bicentennial Drive, Sunshine Beach
TENURE	Freehold. 2RP198277
DATES	1990
DESCRIPTION	The Church is constructed of blocks of South Australian corallite limestone outside a rendered cement block inner shell. There is extensive use of pine lining the ceiling.

4.4.1 BRIEF HISTORY

Prior to 1990 Anglican parishioners in the Sunshine beach area worshipped in the Sunshine Beach Bicentennial Centre.³⁶

The construction of St Andrew's Church was commenced on the present site on 9 January 1990 by local builder James Scholes, and stonemasons Warren Frazer, Greg Mills and Michael Hunt. It was completed by 5 August 1990 when the first worship service was held.³⁷

The church was dedicated on 13 October 1990 by Archbishop Peter Hollingworth. At the request of the major benefactor who had initially donated a large portion of the construction costs (totalling \$350 000), the church was dedicated to the memory of his grandfather, James Campbell Platt, an Anglican missionary to China from 1895 until 1905.³⁸

The design is loosely based on '...the traditional dignity and beauty...' of St John's, an Anglican Church at Sorrento on the Mornington peninsula in Victoria³⁹, where the major benefactor had worshipped as a child. Local architects Hurst and Harris designed a building that combined this desire with the parish's need for a more flexible and open design. It features an open cross shaped nave, wooden ceilings, high and ventilated roof, wide verandahs and paved and landscaped courtyards. In 1991 the design was a finalist in the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Queensland Chapter) FDG Stanley Award for outstanding non-residential architecture in Queensland.

4.4.2 HISTORICAL THEMES

This place illustrates the following historical themes in the Noosa Shire based on the Environmental Protection Agency's, *Guidelines for Historical and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001

9(a) Developing social and cultural institutions – establishing religious institutions: place of worship (church)

4.4.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The building is the first church of any denomination in the Sunshine Beach area.

It is recommended that Noosa Shire Council consider assessment criteria e, f and g based on the Environmental Protection Agency's *Guidelines for Historical and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001, as relevant to this place.

4.4.4 INTEGRITY

The building has not been altered since its construction in 1990.

³⁶ Ivy Pocock, pers. comm., 2000

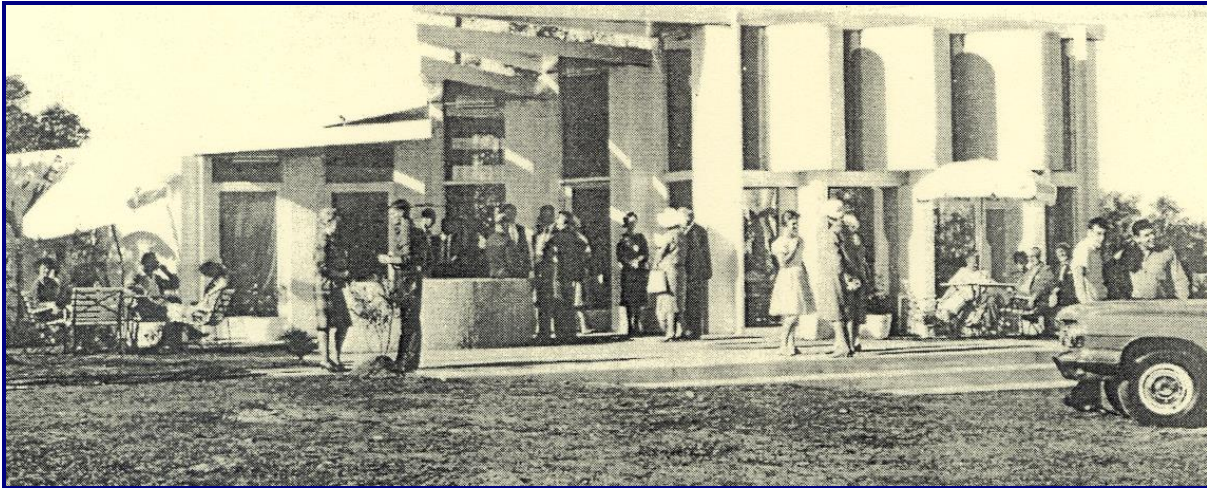
³⁷ Jack Symons, pers. comm., 2000

³⁸ In the Anglican Communion *St Andrewstide* is widely observed by intercessions for foreign missionaries.

³⁹ 'Dream becomes reality at Sunshine Beach', *Church Scene*, 14 September 1990, p, 5

4.5 FORMER PEREGIAN ROADHOUSE

LOCATION	224 David Low Way, Peregian Beach
TENURE	Freehold. 1RP152737
DATES	1962 - Demolished 2003
DESCRIPTION	A single-storey steel and poured concrete reception building. ⁴⁰



The opening of the Peregian Roadhouse in 1962

4.5.1 BRIEF HISTORY

The history of Peregian Beach began in October 1929 when the Home Secretary, J C Peterson, officially opened the '...new road to Noosa Beach formerly known as Coolum Beach'⁴¹ which T M Burke Pty Ltd had built to link Coolum Beach (now Sunshine Beach) with Noosa and Tewantin. It was believed at the time this development of the area would guarantee that '...by reason of the publicity given, attention [would be] directed over a wide area to the claims of Tewantin and District, as a seaside resort and a place for tourists in search for [sic] the beautiful in nature.'⁴²

In 1959 the company undertook the building of 16.5 km of highway including three major bridges to link Coolum and Noosa 'Work began yesterday 3 miles north of Coolum on the new £125 000 Coolum Noosa coastal road. A real estate firm TM. Burke Pty Ltd is paying for the roads and bridges and in return will develop the area...It will pay 25 per cent of its gross sales to the State Government.'⁴³ The Queensland Premier, Hon. G F R Nicklin, opened the highway in April 1960.

The township of Peregian was officially named in 1960 after a nearby mountain — 'peragian' is an Aboriginal word for emu. In that year 200 home sites were surveyed and a network of roads was built to start the town. The following year a further subdivision was made on the eastern side of the highway and for the first time the entire fifteen kilometres from Peregian to Sunshine Beach was accessible from Coolum, and twenty kilometres closer to Brisbane⁴⁴.

On Saturday 2 June 1962 Mr D A Low MLA officially switched on the power that had been supplied at the cost of £42 000 while the Chairman of the Noosa Shire Council, Mr S Adams opened the new roadhouse. In December that year the first eleven units of the Peregian Beach Motel were completed in time to welcome Christmas guests.⁴⁵

TM Burke opened swimming pools in the centre in 1964, and this proved a popular attraction, while the Minister of Lands, Mr Alan Fletcher, opened a recreation area containing picnic facilities, sports oval, tennis courts and a modern caravan park.

⁴⁰ A series of photographs taken in the 1960s detailing the construction of this building and the surrounding township are held in the Noosa Shire Museum, Pomona.

⁴¹ *Gympie Times*, 19 October 1929 quoted in '4000 saw opening', *Sunday Truth*, 19 October 1969.

⁴² *ibid.*

⁴³ *Courier Mail*, 17 July 1959, p. 3.

⁴⁴ 'Australand sale marks end of era', *Noosa Citizen*, 1 April, 1998, p. 7.

⁴⁵ 'Australand offers historical views', *Noosa Citizen*, 25 March 1998, p. 9.

The Peregian Roadhouse was built in 1962 by TM Burke Pty. Ltd. to serve refreshments for would-be land buyers who came to the newly established housing estate of Peregian. It was operated by staff who drove from Coolumb and opened only at weekends. It was the first commercial building in the newly formed township of Peregian, and was later purchased by Tom Farrell and now acts as a reception area and restaurant for the adjacent motel also owned by Farrell.

The motel complex was planned to accommodate prospective buyers who were flown in to inspect the new TM Burke development, called 'Sunshine Beach Estate'.⁴⁶ The 'Estate' included the coastal strip stretching from Sunshine Beach to Peregian. This development was heavily advertised in Melbourne, Head Office of the Burke Group.

4.5.2 HISTORICAL THEMES

This place illustrates the following historical themes in the Noosa Shire based on the Environmental Protection Agency's, *Guidelines for Historical and Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management*, dated 2001: -

3(a) Developing transport and communication networks and infrastructure – establishing roads and road transport services: roadhouse (roadhouse);

5(c) Developing secondary and tertiary industry – providing hospitality services.

4.5.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Peregian Roadhouse was a landmark building. The design and construction methods were in sharp contrast to other buildings in the area. The materials used – steel and poured concrete – were new to the area at the time. The concept of a purpose-built land sales facility to service the needs of guests was unusual in 1961 on the Sunshine Coast.

Alex Jelinek, a Melbourne architect was commissioned by TM Burke, to design the building. Jelinek was born in Czechoslovakia in 1925. He studied and practised architecture in Prague before migrating to Australia in 1950. In Australia he won the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' House of the Year Award in 1957 for the Benjamin House in Gawler Crescent, Canberra.⁴⁷

Local builder Harold (Harry) Davis from Tewantin undertook construction of the Roadhouse.⁴⁸

The site is important for the connection with the opening for sale of the coastal strip of land from the southern boundary of the Noosa Shire to Sunshine Beach.

4.5.4 INTEGRITY

Prior to the demolition the basic design of the building had been altered only slightly since 1962 with the removal of three water tanks at the southern end of the building. Water was originally pumped from a bore on the site of the present Peregian Beach Bowls Club, a distance of approximately 800 metres and stored in these tanks. The tanks were removed after a town water supply was connected to the site.

⁴⁶ Notes of interview with Joy Gorrie, Peregian Beach, 18 September 2000.

⁴⁷ *The Babe is wise Lina Bryans and her portraits*, University of Melbourne, Melbourne 1995.

⁴⁸ Davis was well known in the district by the 1960s having first arrived in Noosa in 1946. He also constructed Alderly cottage in Mitti Street at Little Cove.