



Friends of Bankfoot House News

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Bankfoot House, 1998 Old Gympie Road Glass House Mountains

Year 2010

Our program of cataloguing house objects, photos and documents was suspended in the latter part of the year pending a review by Sunshine Coast Council officers of data base (MOSAIC) procedures. A new procedural guide will hopefully be available in the new year when we will give priority to completing the objects catalogue.

Volunteers have been kept busy ensuring all documents are protected in archival material, by sorting and identifying significant textiles (with the expert help of Nessie Pratten), by maintaining the house gardens, by applying lanolin solutions to metal objects, and by acting as Tour Guides for groups wishing to look through the historic house.

Our Secretary has also been busy restoring the old rusted Chaff Cutter, which for many years lived in the old shed. It is believed the Chaff Cutter was one of the early farming implements used on the property. Bill Ferris recalled as a young lad helping his grandfather, William S Burgess, cut chaff for animal feed. Keith's next project is the old mouldboard plough.

The old shed has been completely cleared of its contents to allow a heritage architect and structural engineer to carry out an assessment on its future retention/preservation. Power to the shed was recently removed.

The Bullock Wagon shed also needs attention and we are waiting for the Council to replace the whiteant-riddled support posts. Rust holes in the corrugated iron roof have yet to be addressed.

Volunteers are looking forward to the Christmas break and will resume at Bankfoot House in mid-January.

Glasshouse Country Festival 2011

The Festival, coordinated by Glasshouse Rotary, will occur from 4 to 10 June 2011 to celebrate Queensland Week in Glasshouse Country (Beerburum to Mooloolah).

A wide range of activities are being planned and will include a 'Kero Lamp' Heritage Trail. The Trail will lead travelers to many local Museums and historic sites with individuals following the trail in their own time and at their own pace.

Museums and other sites along the Trail, including **Bankfoot House**, are being encouraged to 'open' on Sunday 5 June.

Did you know?

S.S.Dicky

The steamer S.S. *Dicky*, carrying a load of sand and eleven passengers, was forced onto Caloundra's shore by a severe cyclone in 1893. The *Dicky* was initially refloated with the aid of local bullock teams but ran aground again in high seas, where it remained beached.

At the time, 15yr old William Smith Burgess (Ethel Burgess's grandfather) was working in Mr Dyer's butcher shop at Landsborough. While efforts to refloat the *Dicky* were underway, Mr Dyer organised for William to take a load of supplies across to the men who were working on the beach – so William set off alone on his horse, taking a pack horse of meat and supplies through the scrub to the beach where the *Dicky* was stranded.

It is not known which track he took, as there certainly wouldn't have been too many cleared roads. However, it was no doubt familiar country to William, as the family had been timber-getting in the area for many years. It is also possible that William travelled across to the coast from time to time to go fishing.

In later years William took his two daughters, Ellie and Mary, onto the beached ship, showing them the Captain's cabin complete with furniture.

Christmas Greetings

Ron, Beth, Keith, Elaine and Jo wish all members and readers a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. All are most welcome to visit the house on a Wednesday and have a cuppa with the volunteers.

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