

# Conservation in the Mission Beach Area: Settlement to 1950



This beautiful picture is from Dave Kimble's website:  
<http://home.austarnet.com.au/davekimble/cassowary5.jpg>

Kirsty Taney

for

James Cook University, Cairns

HI3280: Local History and

Terrain Natural Resource Management

Mission Beach is cemented in the collective mind of North Queensland as an outstanding natural area. Its beauty and diversity have attracted many seeking an escape or a place to study its unique natural features. These people, along with the character of the landscape, its isolation and hence late development, have prevented much of the damage caused in other areas of North Queensland during early settlement. Large tracts of forested land remain conserved as a result. From first contact by those other than the traditional owners and keepers of the land, through to the 1950s, the Mission Beach area retained only those people who could endure its isolation and the frequent cyclones which ravage the coast on an almost yearly basis. By examining the stories of the early settlers and those who came after, there will be a new understanding of how and why places in the Mission Beach area have been conserved. In this way the value of Mission Beach as beautiful place to visit and to study nature at her most prolific will be put into a historical context, celebrated through the people involved and the features of the land.

This project is an environmental history of the region extending from Maria Creek down to the Hull River, examining the ways nature and humans have interacted over a span of around 200 years, from 1770 to the 1950s. It will specifically examine how this area managed to retain a large amount of its natural features despite persistent government efforts to have this part of Queensland settled and used for agricultural purposes. The conservation movement as it is understood

today was non-existent during the period of study. For this reason conservation will be taken as any action or event which had the result of maintaining the area in its natural state. In the interest of presenting a complete account of how the area has been conserved this will also include events such as cyclones and the World Wars, though the emphasis will remain on people such as the author with the alternative lifestyle, Edmund Banfield, who had an interest in preserving the natural state of the area.

With the idea of conservation in mind, it must be noted that no landscape is stagnant. Forests are forever changing, and it is as a result of this that the Mission Beach area is as diverse as it is today. The World Heritage listed area contained within the region of study holds examples of many thousands of years of plant life<sup>1</sup>. It has also been subject to inundation through rising sea levels, creating the continental or “land” island Dunk, as well as the other Family Islands. Peter Taylor notes that although Indigenous people lived in denser population in rainforest areas, they mostly took advantage of natural processes without intervening in them<sup>2</sup>. For this reason the Indigenous interaction with the land of the region will not be assessed in terms of conservation, but rather the ability to take advantage of existing resources and use them within their subsistent culture. The changes that occurred after people came to the area for the purpose of agriculture, farming and timber getting had a more noticeable effect on the landscape, as Taylor explains; “Forests could cope with natural changes but they

---

<sup>1</sup> C4 (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation) homepage – Why is Mission Beach so special? <http://www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au/>

<sup>2</sup> Peter Taylor, *Growing up: forestry in Queensland*. Allen and Unwin, St Leonards. 1994 p.9-15.

had no defence against human beings”<sup>3</sup>. As we shall see, the features of the landscape prevented much of the human manipulation that occurred in other areas.

Some work has been done to cover the general history of the Mission Beach area to date, most notably by Constance Mackness, with *Clump Point and District: An historical record*<sup>4</sup>. Dorothy Jones has also published work about the area generally with *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas*<sup>5</sup> and *the Cardwell Shire Story*<sup>6</sup>, telling the tales of the Johnstone and Cardwell Shires respectively. These border of these shires runs through the area of study. These general histories cover the progress of the shires, and important figures, and are a great source of local knowledge. Residents who lived in the area when all three of these histories were written were consulted, particularly by Mackness who published in conjunction with the Mission Beach Progress Association, making her book a great salute to the pioneers of the area. In these works, themes specific to the Mission Beach area are identified including isolation, the failure of large scale agriculture and the quest for development. Conservation in early north Queensland has been explored by Paul Stevens<sup>7</sup> and Ian Frazer<sup>8</sup>, who identify key figures in early conservation, including the famed resident of Dunk

---

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*. p.16.

<sup>4</sup> Constance Mackness, *Clump Point and District: an historical record of Tam O'Shanter, South Mission Beach, Bingil Bay, Garners Beach and Kurrimine*, (3<sup>rd</sup> ed), GK Bolton Printers, 1983.

<sup>5</sup> Dorothy Jones, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas: a history of the Shire of Johnstone to 1973*, GK Bolton Printers, Cairns, 1973.

<sup>6</sup> Dorothy Jones, *Cardwell Shire Story*, Cardwell Shire Council and Jacaranda Press, Brisbane, 1961.

<sup>7</sup> Paul Stevens, *Vegetation Conservation in North Queensland, 1870 – 1900*, in BJ Dalton (Ed.), *Peripheral Visions: essays on Australian Regional and Local History*, James Cook University, Townsville, 1991.

<sup>8</sup> Ian Frazer, *Conservationism and Farming in North Queensland* (MA Thesis), James Cook University, Townsville, 2003.

Island, Edmund Banfield. Frazer explains that the idea of conservation did have relevance amongst settlers and government at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though there were few government resources to control the impact of agriculture in the north. Stevens gives details of a wider phenomenon of conservation through early Queensland history. Formed through the experiences of settlement and opinion from other colonies, this was experienced mainly as a campaign for wise use of the land by the middle class educated on a basis of science. An overarching theme of progress versus conservation is observed in both works. An environmental history examining conservation of the Mission Beach area has not yet been published. This study will attempt to explore the themes of land use and the values attached to it, the reasons for the minimal destruction of forested land in the region as well as giving an in-depth analysis of the type of people who were involved.

All too often has the history of the Indigenous people of Australia been overlooked or undervalued. While much of this history will remain a mystery due to the policies enacted by authorities of the past, the Mission Beach area has been fortunate to have had significant cultural information recorded by explorers of the coast, as well as by Walter Roth and residents such as Banfield. The interaction between cultures on this part of the coast was ongoing from the time of early exploration, this part of the coast being the entry point to the Inner Passage of the Great Barrier Reef. The way that the Djiru people of the Mission Beach area used the land was able to continue for some time after settlement

due to the low number of white people taking up land as well as the settlers need for willing workers. The first settlers, the Cutten family, were warned about the Djiru, who supposedly killed and ate wrecked sailors<sup>9</sup>. In fact, they preferred to live in co-existence, with only one misunderstanding recorded, which interestingly has an association with conservation. This involved the removal of bean trees, a source of food for the Djiru, and is recounted both by Banfield and resident Arthur Garner. Here is Garner's recollection of a conversation with Les Cutten, according to Mackness:

He admitted that in the early days of Bicton the blacks (sic) had been "a bit difficult" whenever a wonga tree or a bean had been cut down, "Which probably means", says Garner, "that they went close to tearing him to bits". Cutten said, "It is just that they weren't exactly pleased about it – or with us."<sup>10</sup>

Banfield philosophises on the event, using the idea of communitarian ownership of property. His tale gives further detail:

When a neighbouring estate was first settled, in the jungle on the site selected for the house were several magnificent bean-trees. One was about to be felled, when an old man, chief of a camp close by, made it known through an interpreter that food bearing trees were not to be cut down. Eventually a bargain was struck, the whole of the trees on the spot being purchased from the old man, the

---

<sup>9</sup> See Ida Wigg, *Memoirs of the Cutten Family*, Family history, Melbourne, 1951, p 17. This refers to incidents after the wreck of the brig *Maria*, in which some wrecked sailors were killed and a retribution party massacred Djiru people as a result – no proof has been recorded that would indicate the Djiru were responsible.

<sup>10</sup> Constance Mackness, *Clump Point and District*, 1983, p.68.

pioneers being glad of the opportunity of establishing goodwill by friendly understanding. The day following, another patriarch of the camp appeared and made it known that he, too, had property rights in the trees, and demanded payment. Without formally recognising his claim, but with the idea of strengthening the bond of good -fellowship, his price was also paid. Again a third old man made a similar demand, explaining that neither of the others had the right of disposing of his individual interests. He, too, was sent away content. In the course of a day or two a young man presented his claim, expounding the law of the country and the camp, which was to the purpose that no single person or any number of persons, individually or collectively, was or were entitled to barter the rights or property of another. The bean-trees especially were subject to the law of entail. The old men, the young soothsayer explained, could not legally deprive him of his rights to the fruit of the trees that had been property of his as well as their ancestors, though he, disingenuously, was quite ready for a personal consideration to forego his privileges. He, too, was for peace sake made happy; and it was there and then explained by the settlers, definitely and determinedly, that no more payment for the particular trees about to be sacrificed on the altar of civilisation would be made. In the future the laws of the camps were to be restricted to the hundreds of other bean-trees in the jungle, each of which, if wanted, would be the subject of special negotiation.<sup>11</sup>

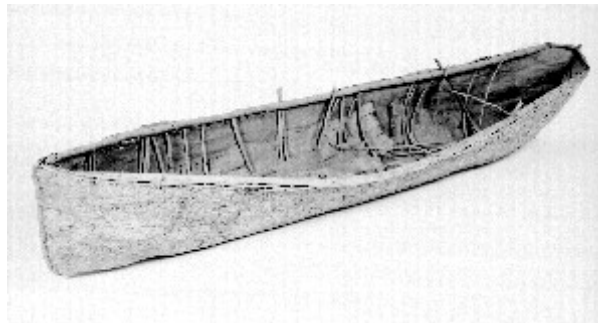
Mackness records that this payment was “the regulation amount of flour and trade tobacco”<sup>12</sup>, hardly compensation for a source of food that would last generations. This provides significant evidence that the Djiru actively sought to

---

<sup>11</sup> Edmund J Banfield, *Confession of a Beachcomber*, 1908, pp306-307.

<sup>12</sup>Constance Mackness, *Clump Point and District*, 1983, p.68.

protect their environment, due to its utility as their source of food, and resisted when damage was being done. Banfield wrote extensively about the Indigenous people of Dunk Island and the mainland, marveling at their skill in fishing as well as their creation stories, their subsistence and conservationist lifestyle practices and the ability to read the land like a calendar. The Walter Roth collection<sup>13</sup> preserves examples of the way the Djiru used their environment, through artifacts and explanations of their composition and construction. This information, if used with local knowledge handed down to today, could provide a fairly accurate account of the Indigenous interaction with the land and warrants further investigation.



Bark canoe, part of the Roth Collection, from Clump Point. The items in this collection include detailed descriptions of construction, to the extent that you could make this item yourself.<sup>14</sup>

The first European explorer to document the geographical details of the north Queensland coastline was James Cook, on board H.M.Bark *Endeavour*. The observations and reports of explorers from Cook onwards would have a considerable impact on the ideas people brought to the area. Cook described the coast around Rockingham Bay and Dunk Island as generally good anchorage,

---

<sup>13</sup> Kate Khan, Catalogue of the Roth Collection of Aboriginal Artifacts from North Queensland, Vol 2, *Technical Reports of the Australian Museum* No 12, 1996.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p.99.



with a well wooded shoreline and a range of high land in the background<sup>15</sup>. This description would lead to further exploration as settlers and miners sought ports for their goods. On the same day, June 8, 1770, Joseph Banks noted the increased number of fires and amount of vegetation on the land<sup>16</sup>, indication of a higher population of indigenous people living in the area. It was on this journey that many of the landmarks of the coast were claimed and named, including Dunk Island, named for Cook's boss, George Montagu Dunk, First Earl of Sandwich, Second Baron and First Earl of Halifax. This replaced through the Western tradition of "discovery" the original Indigenous name of Coonanglebah for the same island.

Though other journeys were made up the coast before this time, the next voyage of consequence was that of Philip Parker King, who surveyed the coast in the *Mermaid*, landing in the Bay in June 1818. He brought with him a botanist named Cunningham who found in the area, "plants common in both Indies, viz: *sophora tomentosa*, *Guilandina Bonduc*, and a beautiful purple flowering *Melastoma (M.Banksii)* a splendid South American genus of whose existence in Terra Australis I had not the most distant idea"<sup>17</sup>. Reports such as this must have sparked the imagination of all kinds of natural scientist, encouraging further exploration in order to find and catalogue the wealth of undiscovered species along the Queensland coast. The next to explore the area were those on board the *HMS Rattlesnake*, the vessel which accompanied the Kennedy Exploration

<sup>15</sup> Ray Parkin, H.M.Bark *Endeavour*. Melbourne University Press, Charlton South. 1997. p.291

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, p.292.

<sup>17</sup> Marsden Hordern, *King of the Australian Coast: the work of Phillip Parker-King in the Mermaid and Bathurst 1817-1822*. Melbourne University Press, Charlton South,1997.p.168.

Expedition's *Tam O'Shanter* to Rockingham Bay in 1848. They landed on Dunk Island and here is perhaps the first European picture recorded of this place:



Sketches on board the H.M.S. Rattlesnake made during the coastal survey of the passage between the Great Barrier Reef and the east coast of Australia, ca. 1848 / Oswald W. B. Brierly 2. H.M.S. St. Vincent Malta February 11 1834. Rockingham [?] Bay. Watering place - Dunk Island, June 5 1848. [http://image.sl.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/ebindshow.pl?doc=px\\_d81/a643;seq=2](http://image.sl.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/ebindshow.pl?doc=px_d81/a643;seq=2)

The intention of this voyage was to hydrographically chart the waters between the Great Barrier Reef and the Queensland Coast in order to plot a safe passage for vessels travelling from India to Sydney, as well as ensure the members of the Kennedy expedition, their equipment and stores were landed safely in Rockingham Bay. While landed at Dunk Island a member of the crew, Dr Thompson, wrote to his wife of the amazing variety of nature to study:

The time passes on very comfortably, for the country affords ample opportunity to the botanist and to the natural historian of making researches into their different departs from the abundance of natural products.<sup>18</sup>

Huxley, a naturalist on the *Rattlesnake*, had the good fortune to join Kennedy on the land, and helped to survey the countryside in a hope of finding a path through the scrub. Though the observations provided by Huxley and others on these expeditions would open up a whole range of fields for scientific exploration, the struggles experienced by Kennedy would put off further ventures in this area for many years to come.

The reasonably uneventful landing of the Kennedy party in Rockingham Bay gave no indication of the peril that would wrack his journey up Cape York. Constance Mackness, using her knowledge of the area and the descriptions provided by Carron, one of the three surviving members of the party, estimates that it took Kennedy from 23<sup>rd</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> August to cut a path from Tam O'Shanter Point to Tully Falls.<sup>19</sup> Huxley's account of the area gives an idea of the unexpected natural features they encountered, first coming up against ridges composed of loose stone, then thick scrub which prevented passage<sup>20</sup>. As they explored the land along the beach they found "beautiful open forest land with very high grass", but this would only lead them to a boggy creek and tea tree

---

<sup>18</sup> Julian Huxley(Ed), *T.H. Huxley's Diary of the Voyage of HMS Rattlesnake*. Doubleday, Doran and Company, New York. 1935. p.289.

<sup>19</sup> Constance Mackness, *Clump Point and District*, 1983, p.6.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, p.100.

marsh<sup>21</sup>. Travelling further north they crossed a creek, only to find a wall of dense jungle scrub. Huxley left the party to re-board the *Rattlesnake*, and his observations are continued by Carron<sup>22</sup>, whose diary of the expedition is filled with boggy creeks and rivers, rocks, dense scrub, rain and the discomforts of wet clothing and leeches along with his brilliant descriptions of flora. The equipment these adventurers carried was obviously too cumbersome and unsuited to such a journey, particularly the many horses and sheep that they brought with them through the scrub. It would be another 25 years before anyone would seek to take on such a task again.



Huxley's impression of "Cutting through the Scrub", included in MacGillivray's Narrative of the Voyage of *HMS Rattlesnake* (p.82) details the 'wild' looking forest and impression of fear in the explorers. The unsuitability of horses for the task is shown well here, and in other pictures by Huxley. <http://math.clarku.edu/huxley/letters/48.html>

---

<sup>21</sup> Constance Mackness, *Clump Point and District*, 1983, p.102.

<sup>22</sup> W.M.Carron, *Kennedy's Expedition*. Kemp and Fairfax, Sydney. 1849.

When George Elphinstone Dalrymple and those who accompanied him made their way up the Queensland coast from Cardwell in 1873 (The North East Coast Expedition) there was a new pressure on the land of this region. It had been established in the previous expeditions and through the travels of cedar getters up and down the coast that north Queensland was endowed with good rainfall and plentiful vegetation. This, it was assumed, meant that there would be good land for farming. There was also pressure to develop ports along the coast for the transport of cattle from inland stations. This expedition led to the beginning of agriculture in the area, the establishment of a port at Cardwell in 1864 (which subsequently languished) and also to the beginning of ideals of protection for some of the vegetation in the Mission Beach area. Walter Hill, botanist for the Queensland government, reported that he had never seen larger or finer specimens of *Calophyllum Inophyllum. L* (Beauty Leaf), *Terminalia melanocarpa, F.M*, *Hernandia origera, L*, and *Eugenia grandis, F.M* than those on Dunk Island, and asked that the government insist on their preservation should the island ever be sold<sup>23</sup>. Dalrymple's report was aimed at bringing people to the region, so that it could be civilised. Kevin Frawley<sup>24</sup> exposes his intention:

Aborigines were said to "infest the whole coast country", and the jungles were "dark and dank" producing "miasmatic influences".

Agriculture was seen as the way of bringing light and civilisation.

---

<sup>23</sup> Ian Frazer, Conservationism and Farming in North Queensland, 2003. p.79, citing Dalrymple, North East Coast Expedition, p.8-11, Walter Hills report, p.48.

<sup>24</sup> Kevin Frawley in Geoff McDonald and Marcus Lane (Eds.) *Securing the Wet Tropics?* Federation Press, Sydney, 2000. p.49.

In this way, those who went in and cleared the jungle were seen as doing their patriotic duty as a settler, and in many ways as a European, transforming the landscape to something that was more familiar and able to be appreciated, unlike the untamed jungles of the Wet Tropics. The propaganda against the Indigenous population aided this aim and many suffered or perished as a result.

By this time the Queensland government had already come up against people concerned with the condition of the environment, particularly with extensive land clearing as had been witnessed in the south of the state. In 1870, Lewis Bernays, Vice President of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society had anticipated the need to conserve forests in order to prevent detrimental climatic changes<sup>25</sup>. By 1875 the Queensland Acclimatisation Society had put enough pressure on the Queensland government to warrant a select committee hearing into forest conservancy. This committee conceded that there had been a shameful waste of valuable timber in Queensland<sup>26</sup>. In the years following there were some policies devised to help, but many did not come into fruition. At best they were a moral deterrent with no consequences for those who broke the rules. The push for agrarian settlement, to put to use this apparently fertile land, far outweighed any romantic connection to the land or scientific concern for its preservation. This meant that farmers who were moving into this region after Dalrymple's expedition had no effective guidelines for how to conserve the beauty of the area they were settling at Mission Beach.

<sup>25</sup> Ian Frazer, *Conservationism and Farming in North Queensland*, 2003, citing letter from Lewis Bernays to AH Palmer, Colonial Secretary, in *Votes and Proceedings 1875-76*, Vol 1, Forest Conservancy, p.3 (p.1209)

<sup>26</sup> Ian Frazer, *Conservationism and Farming in North Queensland*, 2003, p.81.

The Cutten family, who established some of the first tropical industry in North Queensland including tea and coffee plantations, are perhaps the clearest example of how agricultural enterprise struggled in the Mission Beach area and consequently preserved much forested land. Previous to the establishment of this homestead the Cuttens had owned and farmed sheep and grain crops in southern Queensland, and conducted sawmilling in the Croydon-Georgetown area<sup>27</sup>. Unlike many before and after them, the Cuttens had a firm grasp on the effort and skills required to succeed on the land. When two of the brothers made their overland journey in 1882 to inspect the newly opened selections north of Cardwell, they would have had the reports of Dalrymple, Hill and others firm in their minds. Arriving in Cardwell, they borrowed a small boat to make their way up the coast. Upon finding an area with “rich scrub country”<sup>28</sup> they made an application for 1600 acres, only to find that it had already been taken up. Undaunted, they returned to the area and explored further north – this took some time due to the amount of lawyer cane – but they eventually settled on an area which though harder to clear would provide them with valuable timber for their home, fruit boxes, and to sell.<sup>29</sup> The initial process of settling was slow and tedious, as everything had to come from Cardwell by sea, however, by 1884 the brothers had cleared a good area and in 1886 the whole family had moved to the residence they had named Bicton, for the memory of pleasant days spent at Lord

---

<sup>27</sup> Ida M.E. Wigg, *Memoirs of the Cutten Family*, Melbourne. 1951. pp.14-17.

<sup>28</sup> Ida Wigg, *Memoirs of the Cutten Family*, 1951, p.17.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

Rowle's country home, Bicton Hills<sup>30</sup>. Wigg notes that though "life at Bicton was a contrast to what the family were accustomed to", they all enjoyed it.

The crops the family established included all types of tropical plants, from India and Ceylon – tea, coffee, chicory, coconuts, citrus fruits, pineapples and mangoes, tobacco, ginger, spices, pepper, cocoa, jackfruit and more. They managed to secure regular shipping for their produce, of which they had to guarantee a supply of 10 tonnes per week. Their coffee plantation was very successful, though it faltered when government lifted the duty on imported coffee, making the Cutten's product too expensive to compete. This was only one of the many hardships thrown at this pioneering family. Coastal fever was a fact of life in the region, as were the cyclones that visited the property in 1890, 1911 and 1918. Each time the damage was devastating and each time there was rebuilding to be done. The establishment of the Hull River Mission in 1914 also posed problems for the family. Previous to the control of Indigenous people in the region, the Cuttens had some 60-70 men and boys working for them on their plantations. The control of indigenous labour cut this to a bare 2 or 3. The use of regular shipping lines for the war effort from 1914 meant that the Cuttens were isolated from their markets, as this was the only means of transport available at this time. Combined with the severe cyclone of 1918, the blow to Bicton was devastating, and as the brothers were now getting on in age, it essentially meant the end of their enterprise in Bingil Bay.

---

<sup>30</sup> Ida Wigg, *Memoirs of the Cutten Family*, 1951, p.17.



The story of the Cuttens, an enduring family of the Mission Beach area, must surely give an indication of the hardship faced by those who chose to take up land along this thin coastal strip. Though the initial impression is one of an idyllic paradise to us today, in the eyes of those who tried in vain to construct a European style family farm, this area had many pitfalls for settlement. Many families tried to establish citrus and bananas and cut timber, but they all came up against the same type of obstacles as the Cuttens. After the 1918 cyclone this area was basically deserted, only a few families with the means and will to continue remaining. There seems to be one enduring feature amongst these people and their way of life – they all knew how to be resourceful and made the most of any opportunity. They were also satisfied to live off their own produce, which despite set-backs, did do reasonably well in the Mission Beach area.

Some of the most interesting stories to come from early Mission Beach are those of the locals who chose to live an alternative lifestyle, existing within the environment and learning about its treasures. Edmund Banfield wrote about the settlers generally as tied emotionally as well as financially to the land:

Sometimes the settler takes up studies and relieves the sameness of his duties by pastimes. One never went into his maize field, along narrow gloomy aisles through the jungle, without a net for the capture of butterflies.

Another took to collecting birds' eggs; another to the study of botany; another to photography. Each wreathed, according to his predilections, a flowery band to

bind him to the earth, finding that even the life of the settler may be filled with 'sweet dreams, health and quiet'.

Many become great readers and are knowing and knowledgable.<sup>31</sup>

He conceded that here, at Mission Beach, the settler had it far better than those inland. Mackness and Jones write of Rupert Fenby, who after the failure of the fruit trade at Mission Beach, let his orchard go back to jungle, as a sanctuary for the wildlife which he tamed. Mackness describes this self sufficient and eccentric man as living off the land, enjoying the "companionship of nature", keeping enough animals and small crops to support himself and provide occasional income. It sounds as if he was ingenious with food, growing cassava, arrowroot and yams, and making butter from coconut milk and his own flour substitute.<sup>32</sup> Jones adds that when he passed away Fenby had asked that his land was to be used in some way by the local Aborigines to their benefit, and to carry on his ideals. However as late as 1973 no undertaking had yet been decided<sup>33</sup>. Another interesting local was the naturalist Frizelle, an Irishman who had come to Australia as a scientific collector and fell in love with the North. He is noted as having undertaken some of the first scientific recording of the cassowary in the area<sup>34</sup>, as well as collecting moths and butterflies to send to the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States.<sup>35</sup> Being the home to some of the largest populations of butterflies within a small area<sup>36</sup>, Mission Beach must have

<sup>31</sup> Edmund Banfield, *Confessions of a Beachcomber*, T. Fisher Unwin, 1908, p.68.

<sup>32</sup> Mackness, *Clump Point and District*, 1983, p.57.

<sup>33</sup> Jones, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas*, 1973, p.318.

<sup>34</sup> F.J.Crome, Some Observations on the Biology of the Cassowary in Northern Queensland, *Emu* 76, p.8.

<sup>35</sup> Jones, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas*, 1973, p. 317.

<sup>36</sup> C4 (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation) homepage – Why is Mission Beach so special? <http://www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au/>

appeared to Frizelle as heaven. This area obviously captivated those with an interest in nature and with experiencing it 'untouched' and first hand.

Edmund Banfield, author and journalist, was perhaps the first person to politically pursue the ideal of conservation for the Mission Beach area. His time in the area made a significant impact on the way the environment, in particular that surrounding his residence of Dunk Island, was viewed. Previously an overworked journalist for *The Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Banfield moved to Dunk Island on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1897. The piece of land on which he and his wife were to live was purchased with the intention of making it a holiday retreat but Banfield's medical condition, a result of long days and nights working, prompted a change of lifestyle. Banfield recounts the first new day on the island in his book, *Confessions of a Beachcomber*:

But the first morning of a new life! A perfect combination of invigorating elements. The cloudless sky, the clear air, the shining sea, the green folded slopes of Tam O'Shanter Point opposite, the cleanliness of the sand, the sweet odours from the eucalypts and the dew laden grass, the luminous purple of the islands to the south-east... Physic was never so eagerly swallowed nor wrought a speedier or surer cure.<sup>37</sup>

He goes on to say that the party dismissed the view of the landscape as a dangerous battleground - the image provided by the Kennedy expedition was

---

<sup>37</sup> Edmund J Banfield. *The Confessions of a Beachcomber*, 1908, T Fisher Unwin, London, p.11.

remote from his experience of this beautiful place<sup>38</sup>. He also notes that the idea of coming to a place such as Dunk was not spontaneous, but rather “evolved from a sentimental regard for the welfare of bird and plant life.”<sup>39</sup> The stance he took in regard to environmental matters was part of his lifestyle on Dunk. Banfield cleared only what vegetation was necessary to build a home and enough crops to survive on – a mere 4.5 acres of their 128 acre block<sup>40</sup>. The decision to keep bees was one that led to immediate consequences – upon discovering that native birds were devouring his insects, making the exercise futile, he decided that rather than battle nature he would resolve to make Dunk Island a sanctuary<sup>41</sup>. The following picture gives an idea of how Banfield lived, amongst the encroaching forest.



Le Souef, W.H. Dudley, 1856-1923. *Banfield's bungalow on Dunk Island*. Item held by National Library of Australia Collection or series Part of: Campbell, Archibald James, 1853-1929. A.J. Campbell collection, 1832-1921. electronic version via the Internet at: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an24809922>.

---

<sup>38</sup> Banfield, *Confessions of a Beachcomber*, 1908, p.12.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, p.92.

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, p.43.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.47-50.

Banfield's activism was aided through his work as a journalist. His work put him in contact with many different people. Perhaps the most notable was politician, businessman and one time Queensland Premier Robert Philp, to whom his first book was dedicated. Having declared his own parcel of paradise a sanctuary, he responded to concern from the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union about the wanton shooting of Torres Strait or white nutmeg pigeons that was occurring in the area.<sup>42</sup> He wrote to Philp, proposing that the whole of the Family Island group, as well as Dunk, Mound, Kumboola, Thorpe and Richards Islands be "proclaimed a perpetual reserve or sanctuary for all birds, of whatever species"<sup>43</sup>. He further offered himself as a warden of the Isles, someone who could ensure that the aims of the Native Birds Protection Act were upheld.<sup>44</sup> The response was favourable, the Undersecretary for the Department of Agriculture and Stock proclaiming the islands named in his proposal a Reserve for the Protection and Preservation of Native Birds on 10 May 1905.<sup>45</sup> Banfield was named as the gazetted Honorary Ranger on 24 June 1905. Notices made from calico declaring the reserve were posted on each of the islands and Banfield's boating excursions took on a new purpose<sup>46</sup>. Due to the action of one man during his period on Dunk Island the bird life and vegetation was preserved for that time and for the future.

---

<sup>42</sup> Michael Noonan, *A Different Drummer*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia. 1983.pp.134-135.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, p.135.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

As well as taking matters into his own hands, Banfield often tried to persuade the public to think about their environment through his writing, as a journalist and as an author. Writing specifically about the Clump Point area in his tourist guide *Within the Barrier* Banfield spouts rhetoric well before his time:

...in consideration of the vast area of North Queensland, the proportion overspread by jungle on these moist, low-lying coastal lands is by no means great. Some day, let us hope before it is too late, steps may be taken to conserve areas whence denuded patches may be renovated. None yet know the value of this asset to the State...<sup>47</sup>

His newspaper articles could be seen as rants, exposing problems and urging action, in this case against poachers of birds for feathers and eggs:

No method of personal violence is too strong to adopt to scare them from the land. We must be rude, inhospitable, boorish, defiant, for the birds do work in our interests all the hours of daylight and some of them from dark til dawn. Their unreflective ways counsel us to wisdom, and their gay feathers and gladsome notes are universal property and not to be bartered for the sake of those who ply a profitable trade.<sup>48</sup>

Stevens writes that Banfield's ideas of "preserving and appreciating natural environments"<sup>49</sup> were not necessarily popular, but they did have their place in

---

<sup>47</sup> Edmund Banfield, *Within the Barrier*, Government Printer, Brisbane, 1907. p.40.

<sup>48</sup> The Beachcomber (Banfield) The Ruthless Collector, *North Queensland Register*, 11/11/1912.

<sup>49</sup> Paul Stevens in BJ Dalton, *Peripheral Visions*, 1991, p.190.

north Queensland society. The Queensland government received pressure on issues such as forestry and the protection of native birds at this time, not only from conservationists but also farmers and businessmen who saw their destruction as a wasteful use of resources<sup>50</sup>. This led to the creation of some reserves and protection measures, such as Banfield's sanctuary on the Family Islands.

Perhaps Banfield's most lasting contribution is his work describing the life he lived and the beauty he was surrounded by on Dunk Island – the “Isle of Peace and Plenty”. These short passages give an idea of the way he enchanted audiences across the globe:

One of the most self-assertive of birds of the island is also the least – the sun-bird (*Cynnyris frenata*). Garbled in rich olive green, royal blue, and bright yellow, and of a quick and lively disposition, small as he is, he is always before his public, never forgetful of his appearance, or regardless of his rights.<sup>51</sup>

Yet the whole world might be brighter and better if coral reefs were more generously distributed. Breathing such subtle and sturdy air, men would live longer; while the extravagant life of the reef, appealing to him in fine colours and strange shapes, would avert his thoughts from paltry and mean amusements and over exciting pleasures. The pomp of the world he would find personated by coral

---

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, p.190-191.

<sup>51</sup> Banfield, *Confession of a Beachcomber*, 1908, pp.121-122.

polyps; its vanities by coy and painted fish; its artfulness represented by crabs that think and plan; and its scavenging performed by aureoled worms.<sup>52</sup>

During the fullness of the wet season, a diminutive orchid, the roots, tuber, leaf and flower of which may easily be covered by the glass of a lady's watch, springs upon exposed shoulders of hills... Beneath a kidney shaped leaf a tiny, hooded purple flower shelters with becoming modesty, the art of concealment being so delicately employed that it seems to preserve its virginal purity.<sup>53</sup>

Banfield's descriptions of plant, bird and animal life enticed readers the world over and provide a detailed account of the flora and fauna of the area at the time. His recordings could be valuable in the future for assessing population changes among plants, animals and birds due to the impacts the island and its surrounds face today. At the time he published his books, Banfield's style and subject matter was received favourably, to the extent that he found himself overrun with guests, people wanting to "go a-Dunking"<sup>54</sup>. In a letter to friend and author, Alec Chisholm, Banfield wrote in 1917:

You might imagine that living on a desert island would be an insurance against visitors; but we have got into the habit of expecting our daily visitor even if we do not offer special petition for him, and when visitors come by the half dozen or even two dozen, time flies with talk and walk and idle dreaming. The other day my wife and I glanced through my diary and found that a few years ago we spent

<sup>52</sup> Edmund J. Banfield, *My Tropic Isle*, Fisher Unwin, London, 1913, p.147.

<sup>53</sup> Edmund J. Banfield, *Tropic Days* (1918) in James G Porter (Ed.) *Further Confessions of a Beachcomber*, Angus and Robertson, London, 1983, p.74.

<sup>54</sup> Words of Alec Chisolm in Noonan, *A Different Drummer*, 1983. p.197.



over three months without seeing a strange face. It is rare now that two days pass by without a caller.<sup>55</sup>

In the space of ten years from the publication of his first book, people had become well aware of the beauty of this place and wanted to experience it for themselves. Banfield had ensured that people came with the right frame of mind – to experience a tropical wonderland, barely touched by man, a sanctuary for birds, animals, plants and the soul. This may well have been the start of tourism and development of this place, if it had not been for the cyclone of 1918.

Banfield's reaction to the cyclone of 1918 can be understood in very much the same sense as the reaction of those who witnessed the destruction of the more recent Cyclone Larry. While the neighbourhood on the mainland was being virtually destroyed, Banfield and his wife cowered listening to the wind howl and moan, being fortunately sheltered by their island. The isolation of the Mission Beach area at this time meant that there was no warning. No-one was prepared.

At sunrise on Sunday a leafy wilderness; at sunrise on Monday a leafless wilderness, wanting only grey skies, snow on the hills and ice on the pools to suggest an English winter scene. Along the beach, on the flat, on the spurs of the range, astonishing transfiguration. The shrub embroidered strand is now forlorn, its vegetation uprooted and downtrodden, naked roots exposed to critical view.

---

<sup>55</sup> Noonan, *A Different Drummer*, 1983, p.190

Not a shrub has escaped, and broken and shattered limbs of tough trees appeal for sympathy. The country is foul with wreckage.<sup>56</sup>

His account is passionate, poetic and stirring, especially when read in the context of his previous accounts of the detail and beauty of the same place. This natural event transformed perceptions of the land to such an extent that Constance Mackness writes; "... (the) district experienced such havoc and loss that the work of three dozen years was almost wiped out – the jungle almost took possession again."<sup>57</sup> Significant changes after the cyclone were the consequent removal of the Indigenous people who survived to Palm Island, rather than re-establishing the Aboriginal Settlement which was in ruins. This effectively discontinued the relationship the Djiru people had been carrying on with their land. Banfield writes of the capacity of the forest to regenerate some months after the cyclone;

We mortals are apt to fly in the face of Providence, to rail against decrees that cannot be resisted, and bemoan their effects; whereas if we were able to look a month or two ahead, and were wise enough to interpret Nature's laws, we might conclude that the results would be to our ultimate pleasure and profit.<sup>58</sup>

This echoes the idea that forests are able to withstand changes in nature such as cyclones, granted that the system is large enough and well established enough to offer the support required.<sup>59</sup> This seems to have been the case with Mission

---

<sup>56</sup> Edmund J. Banfield, *Last Leaves from Dunk Island*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1925. p.5

<sup>57</sup> Mackness, *Clump Point and District*, 1983. p.28.

<sup>58</sup> Banfield, *Last Leaves From Dunk Island*, 1925, p.13

<sup>59</sup> Peter Taylor. *Growing up: forestry in Queensland*. Allen and Unwin, St Leonards. 1994 p.9-15

Beach at this time, as pictures from the 1930s show the area as fully re-grown, with large tree canopies. The relative lack of clearing, agriculture and development would have assisted this.

It seems that from 1918, through to 1930, was a quiet period for Mission Beach. Those who were left supplemented their income through work other than agriculture – making boats, blasting coral for lime and selective timber getting, as well as finding work outside of the area. In 1926 the Cuttens decided to try and bring more people to the area by subdividing their sea frontage property into building sites, offered at a low price<sup>60</sup>. This failed mainly through the lack of a proper access road. The cost and difficulty of making a road from the railhead at El Arish to Mission Beach also prevented the immense agricultural ventures that were intended for the area. This included the result of the 1931 *Royal Commission on the Development of North Queensland*, in which it was intended that the Mission Beach area would support a large number of farmers. Looking at aerial maps today, it can be clearly seen that though the area surrounding Mission Beach was largely utilized for the purpose of agriculture, the Mission Beach area escaped much of this. The land was put aside for some time for the sugar industry and ended up being a Forest Reserve with no plans for developing it into the 1960s.<sup>61</sup> The obstacles of mountainous or swampy ground of this coastal lowlands area ensured the isolation of Mission Beach for a long period of time, and the consequential preservation of natural settings.

---

<sup>60</sup> Wigg, *Memoirs of the Cutten Family*, 1951, p.21; Mackness, *Clump Point and District*, 1983, p.52

<sup>61</sup> Jones, *Cardwell Shire Story*, 1961, p.363

Another venture that could have spelt the end for much of the forested land at Mission Beach was Brice Henry's Tully Valley Land Settlement Scheme, which proposed to fell large areas and establish grass<sup>62</sup>. This would supplement cattle grazing during the dry season for the rest of Queensland, using the wet tropics as a cattle fattening area for beasts bred in the drier inland. The cost of clearing and the lack of roads meant that this idea would not develop on the ground until some decades later. By this stage it is clear that the isolation of Mission Beach was slowly leading to its downfall. Failure to make the area accessible prevented development of industry, effectively devaluing the land and discouraging further settlement. In contrast to the neighbouring seaside settlements of Townsville and Cairns, Mission Beach failed to gather public enthusiasm, preserving the natural environment over a much longer period. The natural assets of this area would surely have disappeared if treated in the same manner as those surrounding Townsville, where much of the flora was pillaged for housing and industry.

Residents survived the depression in a much more comfortable fashion in Mission Beach than elsewhere. Despite the hard times and little farming income, residents found that the land could provide as much as they needed and more. It is noted that long time residents, the Garner family, took in people who had come on hard times and supported them through the basically self-sufficient nature of the place, as J.G.Tierney recalls:

---

<sup>62</sup> Brice Henry, *Tully Valley Land Settlement Scheme*, Tully Chamber of Commerce, Tully, 1936, p1-4

Many years later as I moved to different areas in the North with my wife and family I would work with men who, when told that my wife was a Garner from Garners Beach, would tell me of the fond memories of good times they had spent at Garners Beach and I started to realise that there was a story to the family that I didn't know and was never mentioned by them. As I understand it, during the 1930s depression some people who came on hard times were welcome to stay at the beach and as the area was nearly self-supporting nobody went hungry and after a period of time as they sorted themselves out would move on and continue with their lives.<sup>63</sup>

Helen Pedley writes of cane cutters who worked in the region often camped at Mission Beach during the off season, using the local environment to supplement their diets until there was work again. She continues that these camps became permanent during the depression.<sup>64</sup> The self-sufficient lifestyle promoted by Banfield and practiced by many others during the early years of Mission Beach seems to have been possible through the plentiful fish and other sea life as well as the area's fertile land for small tropical agriculture. The simplicity of the lifestyle and beauty of the surrounds seem to have made the isolated area content with the smallest amount of contact with the outside world.

Others who enjoyed this type of lifestyle were the artists who had begun to frequent the islands of Bedarra and Timana. Noel Wood moved onto Bedarra in the 1930s from Adelaide, sisters Valerie Albiston and Yvonne Cohen following in

---

<sup>63</sup> Environmental Protection Agency –Cultural Heritage Listing - Garner's Beach Burial Ground <http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/heritage/index.cgi?place=601627&back=1>

<sup>64</sup> Helen Pedley, Mission Beach History, online <http://www.mymissionbeach.com/history.html>

1938. These artists portrayed the island and coast in vibrant colours that gave light to the freedom experienced living in the tropics.



Albiston, Valerie. *Banana Garden, Timana*. c.1950. Oil on board, 38.0 x 46.0 cm. Warrnambool Art Gallery. <http://www.dcita.gov.au/cgp/ausartpages/ausart0102.html>

Their lifestyle was simple, living from the sea and the land. Wood is described as “intuitive in conception and showed...vigorous use of colour and feeling for design in its treatment of the luscious vegetation”<sup>65</sup> While Wood did not exhibit much work, preferring his island lifestyle, the sisters gained high repute due to their habit of visiting the south. Valerie Albiston recounts:

When you had bad weather you couldn't get fish or oysters. If you were lucky enough to catch a fish a decision was made whether to paint it or eat it!... but we also had wild turkeys and a wonderful garden with pawpaw and sweet potatoes. And of course we had a variety of beachcombers on the island, and they were a story in themselves! My goodness me! They had a little shack and we always kept somebody there.<sup>66</sup>

<sup>65</sup> Ross Searle, *Artist in the Tropics: 200 years of Art in North Queensland*. Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville.1991. p.43

<sup>66</sup> Yvonne Cohen, quoted in *Images of the North: selected works of the Cairns Regional Gallery*.p.4 <http://www.cairnsregionalgallery.com.au/ed-imagesnorth.pdf>

There were also visiting artists, though Mackness explains that most were more likely to be found on the mainland as time went on<sup>67</sup>. Their legacy of work is a change in perception people held of the environment – rather than the wilderness needing to be tamed with horse and plough, these jungles came alive as places of beauty.



Cohen, Yvonne. *The Catch*, c.1945. Oil On Board, 38.7 x 48.7 cm. Cairns Regional Gallery.

<http://www.cairnsregionalgallery.com.au/ed-imagesnorth.pdf>

The islands, a source of inspiration, became more accessible through artworks. Dunk Island remains an artist's retreat to this day. The artist John Busst, who would later champion efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef and forest ecosystems of north Queensland, lived on Bedarra initially but moved to the mainland in search of peace once tourists began to frequent the area. He followed the same recipe for a simple lifestyle – only traveling to Tully every few

---

<sup>67</sup> Mackness, *Clump Point and District*, 1983, p.62

weeks to get provisions, in the meantime growing his own vegetables and catching fish.<sup>68</sup>

The recurrence of this type of lifestyle, treading lightly and living simply, was obviously both a requirement for those living on the islands and a choice, for these people could have lived anywhere else; they were not tied to this area through family or farming commitment. The combination of isolation and a beautiful natural environment seem conducive to a life less ordinary. The occurrence of many people living in this manner over a long period of time does not seem to have happened in other parts of Queensland to the same extent. Other areas along the coast of Queensland do have similar natural features, beautiful rainforest, beach and islands, but the pressure for development cut short many good intentions and was a powerful voice drawing out arguments for sustainable or well-researched land use. The Mission Beach area was fortunate in its isolation to have people such as Banfield, Fenby, Frizelle, and then the artists to show that their beautiful surrounds could be lived in and appreciated simultaneously.

The road from El Arish to Bingil Bay was opened in 1936, though previous efforts had been made by settlers to create one of their own. This new road cut out trees they had avoided, which may have been the source of some contention –

Johnstone Shire Council minutes show that in 1940 the Mission Beach Progress

---

<sup>68</sup> Frank Doherty, A Modern Gauguin: Island hermit is going to wed after all; unidentified newspaper clipping, 1950.



Association wrote to express their concern about the state of the road and their willingness to act as rangers to protect trees and other items of concern.<sup>69</sup> This road provided the means of development for Mission Beach, and the result was increased population, especially of tourists. Dunk Island had been purchased and established with accommodation before World War Two, and was further developed into a resort after the War. The Garners ran fishing trips out to the reef and provided accommodation<sup>70</sup>, as did Florence Alexander in the form of a boarding house. The transformation in the 1940s was apparent – a local store was opened, then a post office, servicing tourists and new residents. After the Second World War tourism, particularly beach and tropical tourism became a booming trade. No longer a tranquil isolated string of neighbours, the Mission Beach area steadily developed into the places we see today.

The legacy of the early residents of Mission Beach area still remains. The now National Park land on Dunk Island, as well as the remaining vegetation in Wet Tropics areas within the area of study are relics of this early period, preserved through isolation, the efforts of settlers, and the events that affected them. Key figures such as Edmund Banfield, Fenby, Frizelle and the Cutten family, the visiting as well as resident artists, have reinterpreted the early views of this land as inhospitable and wild. The birth of tourism at the end of World War Two and building of a road developed the area at a time when these new ideas about the tropical environment of North Queensland were coming to the fore. This meant

---

<sup>69</sup> Johnstone Shire Council Minutes, November, 1940.

<sup>70</sup> Environmental Protection Agency – Cultural Heritage Listing – Garners Beach Burial Ground.  
<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/heritage/index.cgi?place=601627&back=1>

that the beauty of the Mission Beach area could be enjoyed through leisure, rather than used for agricultural purposes.

The environment itself has preserved much of the landscape, being at first hard to access, as evidenced by the Kennedy expedition and the first attempts at settlement, then through the destruction caused by frequent cyclones. The failure of large scale agriculture along this coastal strip, as well as the cost of building roads through the forest and swamp areas, has ensured that large tracts of land remain uncleared. Interaction with the land has been constant well before the coming of Europeans, making it clear that humanity and forest can co-exist, given the right circumstances.

In the case of Mission Beach, these circumstances have been isolation and a lack of development. The efforts of people such as Banfield are not to be underestimated; however it is clear that those efforts were more successful in this place due to the lack of settlement and opposition from others requiring land for different purposes. In the context of the early settlement of North Queensland, the Mission Beach area was lucky escape the damage that occurred to other forested areas due to lack of government controls. If there had been a transport route, more land of similar quality available closer to neighbouring towns and services, and a mill to take advantage of the timber cover, Mission Beach would look a lot different to what it does today.

The colourful stories that have come out of this research, of people living a life less than ordinary, should be celebrated within the Mission Beach community. The ideals of these people kept them going through the devastation of the cyclone of 1918, exhibiting a true love for the land and its beautiful assets. This unique area of Queensland drew people who cared about nature, and will continue to do so for as long as these assets remain. Their recorded histories could help in the future to determine what, if any, changes need to be made to keep the area for the enjoyment of all for another 200 years.

## References

Banfield, E.J., *Tropic Days* (1918) in James G Porter (Ed.) *Further Confessions of a Beachcomber*, Angus and Robertson, London, 1983.

Banfield, E. J., *My Tropic Isle*, Fisher Unwin, London, 1913.

Banfield, E. J., *Confessions of a Beachcomber*, T. Fisher Unwin, 1908.

Banfield, E. J., *Within the Barrier*, Government Printer, Brisbane, 1907.

Banfield, E. J., *Last Leaves from Dunk Island*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1925.

The Beachcomber (Banfield) The Ruthless Collector, *North Queensland Register*, 11/11/1912.

C4 (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation) homepage – *Why is Mission Beach so special?* <http://www.cassowaryconservation.asn.au/>

Cairns Regional Gallery. *Images of the North: Selected works from the Cairns Regional Gallery*. <http://www.cairnsregionalgallery.com.au/ed-imagesnorth.pdf>

Carron, W.M., *Kennedy's Expedition*. Kemp and Fairfax, Sydney, 1849.

Crome, F.J., Some Observations on the Biology of the Cassowary in Northern Queensland, *Emu* 76, pp. 8-14.

Doherty, Frank, A Modern Gauguin: Island hermit is going to wed after all; unidentified newspaper clipping, 1950.

Environmental Protection Agency – Cultural Heritage Listing – Garners Beach Burial Ground.  
<http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/projects/heritage/index.cgi?place=601627&back=1>

Frazer, Ian, Conservationism and Farming in North Queensland 1861 -1970(MA Thesis), James Cook University, Townsville, 2003.

Henry, Brice, *Tully Valley Land Settlement Scheme*, Tully Chamber of Commerce, Tully, 1936.

Hordern, Marsden, *King of the Australian Coast: the work of Phillip Parker-King in the Mermaid and Bathurst 1817-1822*. Melbourne University Press, Charlton South, 1997.p.168

Huxley, Julian(Ed), *T.H. Huxley's Diary of the Voyage of HMS Rattlesnake*. Doubleday, Doran and Company, New York. 1935.

Johnstone Shire Council Minutes, November, 1940.

Khan, Kate, Catalogue of the Roth Collection of Aboriginal Artifacts from North Queensland, Vol 2, *Technical Reports of the Australian Museum* No 12, 1996.

Jones, Dorothy, *Cardwell Shire Story*, Cardwell Shire Council and Jacaranda Press, Brisbane, 1961.

Jones, Dorothy, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas: a history of the Shire of Johnstone to 1973*, GK Bolton Printers, Cairns, 1973.

Mackness, Constance, *Clump Point and District: an historical record of Tam O'Shanter, South Mission Beach, Bingil Bay, Garners Beach and Kurrimine*, (3<sup>rd</sup> ed), GK Bolton Printers, 1983.

McDonald, Geoff and Marcus Lane (Eds.) *Securing the Wet Tropics?* Federation Press, Sydney, 2000.

Noonan, Michael. *A Different Drummer*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia. 1983

Parkin, Ray, H.M.Bark *Endeavour*. Melbourne University Press, Charlton South. 1997

Pedley, Helen, *Mission Beach History*, online  
<http://www.mymissionbeach.com/history.html>

Searle, Ross, *Artist in the Tropics: 200 years of Art in North Queensland*. Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville. 1991. p.43

Stevens, Paul, Vegetation Conservation in North Queensland, 1870 – 1900, in BJ Dalton (Ed.), *Peripheral Visions: essays on Australian Regional and Local History*, James Cook University, Townsville, 1991.

Taylor, Peter. *Growing up: forestry in Queensland*. Allen and Unwin, St Leonards. 1994

Wigg, Ida, *Memoirs of the Cutten Family*, Family history, Melbourne, 1951.