



CLEVELAND QLD (2)



Name: Memorial Hall & School of Arts

Address: Passage Street, Cleveland (moved to Smith Street in the mid 1990s¹)

The Town/District:

²*Cleveland, a suburb of Redland City, is situated on Moreton Bay opposite North Stradbroke Island, 26 km south-east of central Brisbane. It was named in 1840 after the Duke of Cleveland. The suburb's northern shoreline faces Raby Bay, which was the name of the castle where the Duke resided.*

There was considerable shipping around Cleveland Point, some to the Brisbane River but much to the Cleveland port. The sand bar across the river made Cleveland an acceptable port, and for a short time it vied with Brisbane as the colony's capital. The Cleveland township was proclaimed in 1850. Cleveland's population grew to about 300 by the end of the 1870s. A school was opened in 1868, Anglican and Catholic churches were opened in 1874 and 1877, and a school of arts in 1888. The Cleveland local government division was established in 1885, four years before the railway line from Brisbane was opened. The Cleveland railway station was east of the present station, near Passage Street. Shops and a goods yard were nearby.

Cleveland Shire, with an area of 28 sq miles, included considerable farmland of good quality. Produce was readily railed to Brisbane, particularly bananas, citrus and strawberries. There were three hotels in the 1920s, upholding Cleveland's reputation as a watering place, as well as several stores and trades people and the office of the *Redland Mercury* newspaper. With rail access, the Shire's population more than tripled during 1911-47 to nearly 3400.

¹ Cleveland Timeline –Redland City Council

² queenslandplaces.com.au



Today, Cleveland, a commercial, residential and industrial area, is the Council seat for Redland City, with a population (in the 2006 census) of 13,585³. It is the terminating station for the rail line from Brisbane City and the terminal for ferries to and from North Stradbroke Island. There are public and private hospitals, many private and state schools, sporting grounds, a very active Arts community, many community 'Seniors' organisations and the home of the Redland Museum with its large collection of memorabilia from the area, plus ever-changing exhibitions. The Redland Performing Arts Centre attracts many great performers as well as being the venue for local school presentations.

There are many fine eateries in the area including the historic Courthouse Restaurant and Lighthouse Restaurant, both with views across Moreton Bay. The Lighthouse Restaurant is situated on Cleveland Point where the original Cleveland Light was built in 1864, replaced in 1969, but shifted as a project of the Redland Museum, and recently restored as an attraction for the many tourists who visit the area.

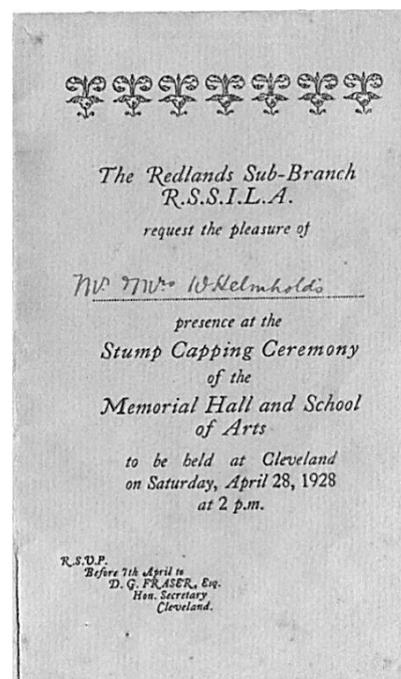
Establishment:

A move had been made by the citizens of Cleveland to build a Memorial Club and School of Arts but the project lapsed. The sum of £239-4-0 had been collected, the major donation being £100-0-0 from the Cleveland Agricultural Horticultural & Industrial (A.H.&I.) Society. In July 1925 a public meeting of subscribers was held. The quarterly meeting in the Masonic Hall of July 13th 1925 agreed a Memorial Hall & School of Arts Building fund be opened.

At the Building Committee meeting of 29th February 1928, Mr. Nowlands was appointed Architect of the Memorial Hall, asked to draw up detailed plans and specifications and when these were approved, call tenders. The financial position was discussed with the architect and all the requirements were satisfactorily dealt with.

On the 12th April 1928 at a General Meeting the tender of Harold Wallis was accepted for the construction of the building. The Building Committee meeting of 9th July, 1928, agreed to have Mr Wallis add to the building a Memorial Porch and agreed to place an engine shed on the grounds for electrical supply.

A 'stump-capping' ceremony was held on 28 April 1928.



³ Wikipedia



Harold Wallis completed the building in time for the opening on the 5th August 1928 by the then Prime Minister Rt. Hon. S.M. Bruce, later Lord Bruce. A bronze plaque was to be affixed to the N.E. corner of Hall and a Gold Key purchased and inscribed and presented to the Prime Minister with inscription

*“Redlands Memorial Hall opened by Right Honourable S.M. Bruce P.C. C.H. M.C and dedicated
5th August 1928”*

In August 1928 when the Memorial Hall was opened, the Building Fund showed an overdraft of £1000 while £300 was due to members who had made interest free advances for the purchase of furniture and fittings⁴.

On the 16th July, 1930, the first Annual Meeting of the Cleveland Memorial School of Arts was held⁵.

Building:

The Architect was a Mr. Nowlands, and the Hall was built in 1928 by Harold Wallis, with the opening ceremony held on 5th August, 1928. The Hall was moved from Passage Street, Cleveland, to Smith Street, Cleveland, in the 1990s.

**The Memorial Hall and School
of Arts
situated in Passage Street
Cleveland**



Uses and Social History:

The first Social Event held in the Hall was a big occasion for Cleveland. The following paragraphs are from an address given by Norman Dean, OAM ED, to the Redlands RSL on 27th March, 1993, speaking about the opening of the Memorial Hall and School of Arts –

As a 10 year old I have a clear picture of the occasion. I was tremendously impressed by the number of Officials present. I had not before seen a Prime Minister. I remembered thinking that he appeared quite a normal person. It was certainly the most important event I had witnessed in my short life. I don't think I had ever seen so many people in the one place at the one time. I knew by my Father's reaction that this was a day Cleveland would remember for a long time

⁴ From an address by Norman Dean OAM on 27 March 1993

⁵ NLA Trove: Brisbane Courier 21 July 1930



Mr. Dean also recalled other events –

The Duke of Gloucester in 1934 made an official visit to the Redlands and the reception ceremony was held in Cleveland at this Hall...



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**Visit of the Duke of Gloucester in 1934.
The reception was held at the Cleveland Memorial Hall & School of Arts
which was completed in 1928.**

....When the War Clouds of the Second World War started to gather in 1938, it was decided to form an Infantry Platoon in the Redlands. Lieutenant. Harold Grigg was the Platoon Commander and I along with many of my friends joined the 15/26 Militia Bri[gade]. All our parades were held in this Hall.....On my return from the Second World War at the end of 1945 the first function I attended was a Welcome Home Party sponsored by the Cleveland Shire Council. It was of course held in this Hall. It was well attended by returned personnel many still in uniform of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Nursing sisters.

When the Rotary Club of Cleveland was chartered in 1962 this hall was chosen as the venue. It was packed with some 450 persons.

Over the years, many important events were held in the hall. The Diggers held an Annual Ball, the Show Ball was held each year and many fetes⁷.

Redlands first Naturalisation Ceremony was held in the Memorial Hall in 1954⁸.

⁶ Copy of photo held in Redland RSL Museum

⁷ Speech by Norm Dean to Redland RSL 17 March 1993



In 1969 the new Council Chambers were opened to include a public library, replacing the one in the Memorial Hall⁹.



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**Left: The hall being moved from Passage Street to Smith Street in the 1990s; and
Right: When it first arrived at Smith Street**

**Cleveland
Memorial Hall
and School of
Arts:**

**Re-located to
Smith Street in
the 1990s.**



⁸ Cleveland Timeline - Redland City Council
⁹ Cleveland Timeline - Redland City Council
¹⁰ Photos donated to the Redlands RSL Library/Museum



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Banquet to celebrate the centenary of the proclamation of Cleveland as a township in the Memorial School of Arts 1950

Some of the locals of today remember going to the Hall to learn Kick Boxing or Gymnastics or taking their children to the Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic which was held in a side room near the entrance.

Currently (2012):

The Memorial Hall, known as a Redland City Council community hall and no longer as the School of Arts Hall, is now located in Smith Street, Cleveland. The hall is in demand for many community events. Each week there are different types of exercise, dance and martial arts classes held in the main body of the hall and catering to differing age groups. It is a great venue for concerts of all types and many private functions, both large and small, are held there. Antique Fairs fill the hall, including the stage, with memorabilia attracting both locals and people from other areas.

Displays of painting, photography, crafts, quilting etc. are staged there during the local “Redfest” celebrations.

Although no longer called a School of Arts, the building is still fulfilling the same purpose for which it was originally intended – as a community hall for the people of the Redlands. Those who mooted the idea last century would be very proud of the way the Redland City Council preserves this hub of entertainment in our ever-growing area.

¹¹ Photo from album donated to Redland Museum



Acknowledgements:

Redland City Council
Redland Museum
Redlands RSL
Mr. Norman Dean, O.A.M., E.D.

References:

National Library of Australia (Trove)
Wikipedia
A Redland Centenary Souvenir
Redland Times
queenslandplacenames.com

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Photos:

Photograph album donated to the Redland Museum.
Photographs donated to the Redlands RSL Library/Museum.
Recent photos by Audrey Warner