

ADFAS Gold Coast - REDLAND ART GALLERY AND ORMISTON HOUSE COACH TOUR

It was a fine warm November morning when we boarded the coach to the Redland Shire, an area lying just north of the Gold Coast, bordered by Brisbane, Logan, and Southern Moreton Bay, and including a number of islands such as North Stradbroke and Coochiemudlo. It also boasts a proud connection with the Quandamooka people who have cared for this region for the past 21,000 years.

First stop was Heritage listed and National Trust registered Ormiston House, built in the 1860s by Capt. Louis Hope who was to become known as the Father of the Australian Sugar Industry. A scrumptious Devonshire Tea was served to us on the veranda of this gracious homestead overlooking the lawn and the waters of Moreton Bay.



We stepped back in time with an oral history of the House followed by guided tours with enthusiastic volunteers. Ormiston House remained in the Hope family until 1912, and in 1959 the Carmelite Nuns bought the house and 11 acres. It has functioned as a house museum since the mid-1960s. The original slab hut has also been lovingly restored and many of the original trees planted in the extensive park-like garden, some quite rare, still remain.



Photos L-R: Devonshire tea setting was on the veranda of Ormiston House overlooking the back lawn and the Bay; original Slab Hut now the Visitor Information Centre; Quadrangulata Tree (*Elaeodendron quadrangulatum*), a rare and attractive evergreen tree from South America. To our knowledge, there are only two of these plants growing in Australia.

The Lighthouse Restaurant was our lunch time destination. The lighthouse and the Cleveland Point precinct are on the Register of the National Trust of Queensland. The lighthouse (left) is one of Queensland's oldest, built in timber, and the restaurant is on the site of the state's oldest licensed hotel, the Pier Hotel. Lunch was an adventure in itself. We had been given prime waterfront tables. However, with the high tide and waves whipped up by the strengthening north-easterly breeze, this turned out to be not quite so ideal. While our Seafood Assiettes and Crab Lasagnes were delicious, a couple of diners had damp experiences, and another had seafood bisque splashed onto her white shirt from windblown wave spray. Certainly a memorable lunch! In choosing the date for the coach trip, I had factored in a high tide so that we would not be looking at mudflats. Hindsight is a great thing.



Off to high and dry Cleveland territory to discover the Redland Art Gallery (RAG). Lizzie Riek, the gallery's Collections and Curatorial Officer, gave a brief outline of the two current exhibitions and encouraged us to have a wander through the gallery and enjoy the many and varied works. The following descriptions have been taken from the RAG 2020 Exhibitions and Events booklet.

Wetlanders: The Overwintering Project Moreton Bay is a collection of original prints, artist books and drawings sourced from sojourns across Moreton Bay by Anna Bonshek, Jen Conde, Sandra Pearce, Sue Poggioli, Jenny Sanzaro-Nishimura, Helen Sanderson, Jennifer Stuerzl, Evelyne Upton and Pat Zuber – known as the Migaloo Press Artists Collective. (See article by Jen Conde – ADFAS GOLD COAST Newsletter Summer 2021).



Canaipa Mudlines began in 2016 with a small collective of Southern Moreton Bay Island artists seeking ways of connecting their creative practices with the island ecology. Based on Canaipa (Russell) Island, the project has developed as both established and emerging artists from the island and beyond make regular site excursions to create mostly ephemeral works in response to the places and qualities they encounter. Working in this way has contributed to both surprising developments in their individual practices and highlighting the often overlooked richness of the island environment.”



Photos L-R:

Tania Budd – clockwise from Channel (tall piece, rear); Rocky Point; Tide line; Passage; Kurrajong.

Centre: Maria Cleary – Remnants

Right: Sandy Ward and Sharon Jewell (collaboration) – Bush Semaphore <https://canaipamudlines.wixsite.com/mysite/post/canaipa-mudlines-art-and-environment>

Now homeward bound, we stopped at Victoria Point to enjoy our bubbles, cheese and crackers. To the east, the Coochiemudlo Island ferry was making one of its many journeys across the water. To the west, purple-grey clouds and lightning indicated it was time to go and it would be a wet drive home – the end of another fun ADFAS ‘grand day out’ with friends.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again on our 2021 excursions...

Wendy Spencer
ADFAS Gold Coast