

Whitsunday Family History Group Inc

"BRANCHING OUT" March 2023

Proserpine Community Centre
36 Gardenia Street, Proserpine Qld 4800

Email: wfhg@qld.chariot.net.au



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Leah Davis	0438 451 880
Vice-President	Barbara Uhe	
Secretary	Pat Mengel	07 4945 1500
Minute Secretary	Barbara Barnett	
Treasurer	Howard Barnett	07 4947 1623
Librarian	Linda Thorogood	07 4945 4995
Journal Editor	Leah Davis	0438 451 880

LIBRARY HOURS

Thursday and Saturday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm & Tuesday 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

MEETINGS

Discussion group at WFHG Library at Proserpine Community Centre, 2nd Saturday each month at 9.30 am

MEMBERSHIP FEES – per year

Joining Fee \$10, plus Basic Fee \$40 single, \$70 family. Upgrade to Gold \$35 for unlimited use of library and all printouts. Basic members to pay 50¢ per hour for use of library & 20¢ for A4 printouts and copies.

OBJECTIVES

1. To foster and promote the study, practice and preservation of genealogy, heraldry, topography, history, biography, heredity and of family and local history and allied subjects.
2. To foster a spirit of friendliness and co-operation and to give assistance to members through mutual sharing of information and techniques.

PUBLICATIONS

The Proserpine News WWII – a record of military personnel from Proserpine and districts.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I sit at my desk and consider what to write in my quarterly report, I ponder what does family tree research mean to me, or to each of us.

For me it is the thrill of excitement of finding that little piece of the puzzle that has been missing for so long; that one piece that has evaded all the generations of my line, and that lovely photo of that special relative that you always wished you had.

The one thing that I truly believe is a help to my research is to join a local family research group. The help and guidance of other members is immeasurable. They may have a special site for a particular county or country, or better still, they may even have books in their own personal collection that can help you. To research in a group is rewarding in two ways, you get to help others and they in turn can also help you out. To me, a win win situation!

Our monthly webinars furthers our education, not only on new sites, but also refreshes our research habits. We can tend to get into a habit in our research and may be missing that vital clue to bust the wall. Remember, different search criteria mean different results. Different research online sites sometimes suits particular areas more so than others.

The year is already away and running, and the Annual General Meeting is almost upon us. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee for their support and friendship and look forward to taking a more relaxed role this year. I wish the new Committee the very best wishes for another successful year ahead.

Julie Lee

Outgoing President.

Welcome to New Members

Kerry Bishop & Sheena Graeme

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

NEW ZEALAND

B 057 The NZ Information Booklet

QUEENSLAND

N 284 North Queensland Register - 130 Year Souvenir Edition 16 June 2022

B 1236 Proserpine State School 125 years – 1897-2022

B 063 Sugar from the Scrub – a pictorial history of Walkerston

B 0011 Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame

B 0069 A Church for the People, St James, Proserpine

B 0071 Outback, The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame (Souvenir Edition)

B 0080 Cyclone Ului 2010

ENGLAND

B 053 Social History of Victorian Britain

AUSTRALIA

B 056 The Crimes of the Lady Juliana Convicts – 1790

B 023 The Exiles (the first 35 years of Australia's colonial existence)

B 021 A Woman at War (the service life of an ex-WAAF Sgt.)

B 018 Secrets Revealed (Royal Australian Air Force 1916-1991)

HINTS FOR SEARCHING CEMETERIES

Submitted by Barbara Uhe

As a genealogist you have probably spent long hours walking through a cemetery to find that long lost member of your family.

Cemeteries come in all shapes, sizes and locations. Likely the person you are looking for is in the far back corner under a large tree with a headstone (maybe) that is hard to read, much less take a decent photo of.

Through trial and error, and also having to visit the same cemetery numerous times over the years to find that family member, I have developed a plan to get the most from my visit.

- Many cemeteries put their data online which is helpful, or it can be onsite via a notice board
- A map of the cemetery is handy (if there is one) as it can save hours of walking
- Find-A-Grave website will provide death information and a tombstone photograph if a genealogist has put your ancestor on this site
- If you have a death certificate, Victoria where my family are, that will provide the cemetery and the date of burial or cremation
- If you are fortunate to have a 'great aunt Mary', talk to her – she may be a wealth of information
- List of ancestors you are searching for, and what religion they could be. Often cemeteries are set out in religious sections
- Cemetery directions – not all cemeteries are easy to find

So, what do I do - all of the above

When I go cemetery ancestor searching, I have in my car, my *cemetery bag* (shopping trolley) which contains

- Sturdy boots – cemeteries can be wet, not maintained, long grass, snakes are always on my mind, and watch out for rabbit holes
- Sun hat, for the rain of course, also for the rain so my glasses remain clear, and a raincoat
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Camera with battery charged (yes I have found that ancestor, went to take a photo and my battery was flat. Not a great outcome.
- Secateurs – for trimming that errant bush to the tombstone writing can be seen
- Brush – sweep the grass, cobwebs, etc. from the tombstone
- Spray bottle of water and a rag (bird poo removal)
- Ordinary chalk – sometimes helpful to go over the tombstone writing so it can be seen. Use the spray bottle of water to remove the chalk before leaving
- Pen and notebook. Note the name spelling variation, dates. What other writing is on the tombstone. Also note any markings or symbols that may be there.

- Note the whereabouts of the grave in the cemetery
- Carefully temporarily relocate any flowers or ornaments, so a clear view of the writing can be seen. Be like a farmer, leave the gate as you found it and the same with tombstone items. They are precious to the family.

My Davidson family who came from Scotland landed in Melbourne and settled in Serpentine and the surrounding area in the 1850's.

On my way to visit my sister I would often pass through Serpentine. I would always look out for the cemetery. Not until I went to the Kerang Library did I find that the Serpentine Cemetery is called Yarrayane and was down a road I hadn't travelled on.

So off I went from one end of this road to the other, not a cemetery in sight. Luckily my husband (who is not a cemetery sleuth) saw a little wooden sign on a fence. In the distance there were some trees. So in a farmers paddock we went heading towards the trees, and there was the cemetery.

What a treasure trove of ancestors.

My Davidson family plot was under a huge peppercorn tree, so much work for the secateurs was in order. It's not a large cemetery, so I managed to take a photo of every grave, and so glad I did, as more ancestors were found.

Next time you are cemetery bound looking for that ancestor – be prepared for all eventualities.

You may be passing this way but once, so make your visit count.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1903 'Waltzing Matilda' was bought as a jingle for BILLY TEA .

Banjo Patterson had sold the song 'with some other old junk' for 10 shillings and 6 d. at the end of WWI Banjo Patterson watched the Diggers come down the gang planks singing his song.

Patterson said "I sold the song for 10/6 years ago, but it is worth a million quid to hear those soldiers singing 'Waltzing Matilda' now they are coming home".

SOURCE: Kavanagh's Queensland Courier Mail, Thu April 13th 1995.

Alexander Cameron

The following article was published in Australian Family Tree Connections, November 2014

The late amateur historian Violet (Duck) Moore published the Cameron Family Book in 1987 in which she had reconstructed the history of my great-grandparents, Alexander Cameron and Eliza Marks. My copy of her handmade book is a prized but tattered possession.

The only tangible thing that Alexander Cameron left behind was his signature! Violet and her intrepid team found three instances:

- 1833 as a witness to the marriage of Michael Sullivan and Ellen Dwyer in Port Macquarie
- 1836 confidently signed the marriage register in Port Macquarie when he married the newly-arrived and illiterate assisted migrant Elizabeth Marks (one of the witnesses was Harriet Bedcoat)
- 1837 Alexander and Elizabeth were the witnesses at the Port Macquarie wedding of James Beal (alias Austin) and Harriet Bedcoat (Bedgood, Bidgood).

Alexander and Elizabeth (Marks) Cameron had seven sons.

- John 1837-1915 married Sarah Mabbott
- William 1838-1904 married Sarah Jane Hollis
- David 1840-41
- James 1842-
- Alexander 1844-1914
- Robert 1846-1937 married Mary Maria Baker
- Matthew Arnold 1848-1929 married Mary Jane West

In her book Violet Moore stated that Alexander Cameron junior was *'thought to be a bachelor'* however in 2001, my nephew Scott Mengel, purchased the death certificate of an Alexander Cameron who died in Sydney in 1914 and there was the missing Alexander junior. He died in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown; death registered at Newtown; late of Tamworth, stockman, son of Alexander Cameron, carpenter, and Eliza (maiden surname unknown); 11 living children, two deceased.

Even something as simple as my grandmother's death record proved difficult to find. In Violet's book it says *'Mary Jane Cameron nee West died in 1926, no place mentioned'*. In October 2005 professional researcher Ruth MacDonald finally found it for my sister-in-law Eileen Cameron; Mary Jane died in the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, Sydney, late of Niangala, via Walcha, Cockburn Shire, registered at Newtown. It had taken so long to find because the correct year was 1934 and the information on the record is remarkably accurate, except for one crucial fact: her father's name is given as Robert George West, instead of George West, so in the BDM Index she appears as Mary J Cameron, daughter of Robert G and Catherine (no surnames), Newtown.

When did Alexander Cameron die? Violet Moore's book stated:

Alexander died intestate on 12-2-1880 at Tiara, North Walcha, and his occupation was Labourer, Builder. He is buried at Tiara.

I queried this with Violet who replied by letter that it was in fact 1850, a simple typo which was then mindlessly copied by many people for some 20 years.

In January 2006 my sister Shirley Mengel sent me a copy of Alexander Cameron's thick 1871 Probate file:

Eliza Marks Cameron signed with Her (X) Mark an elaborate 'Renunciation' of her late husband's estate on 19 September 1871; the NSW Supreme Court then gave the estate to her son John Cameron on 14 November 1871.

The death date was given as the Twelfth Day of February One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty.

In mid 2007 I took up the challenge of researching Alexander Cameron and commissioned professional researcher Laurence Turtle of Kurrajong, NSW. Soon after I received an email from him asking:

Were we aware that Alexander Cameron was murdered? This is mentioned twice in the information. There is some discrepancy as to the timing, but it appears that he died in 1854, not earlier.

No, I wasn't aware of that! And so a treasure trove of documents was found by Mr Turtle, starting with the thick 1871 Curator of Intestate Estates file. Alexander Cameron's correct death date was 19 April 1854 and government documents sometimes said he was of 'Waterloo' and sometimes of 'Tiara' (adjoining sheep stations south east of Walcha Town, in 1854 owned by the same consortium with 'Tiara' considered to be secondary to 'Waterloo').

The NSW Government Gazette showed that Alexander's widow Eliza (Marks) Cameron started to claim her husband's Intestate Estate but for some traumatic reason the complicated and expensive process collapsed. The file showed that some of Alexander Cameron's stock (31 head of cattle, plus 6 calves; no horses) was sold by the Curator's Agent on 12 May 1856 and the entire estate was entrusted by the Government.

In December 2007 Mur Turtle found the hefty Attorney-General's file which contained depositions from the principal people involved in the 1854 police investigation and much more. Unbelievable! And Violet Moore and her team had come *oh-so-close* to finding all this in 1987.

Some 16 years after his murder, Alexander Cameron's sons began an attempt to claim their late father's estate. On 28 February 1870 the illiterate William Cameron got a JP at Port Macquarie to write to the Curator of Intestate Estates and that letter contained a list of the surviving issue (John, William, James, Alexander, Robert and Matthew). Nothing happened. On 24 July 1871 Mr John McLeod of Ingleba, via Walcha, wrote to the Curator on behalf of the illiterate John Cameron of Ingleba (sub-district). The Curator, David Bruce Hutchinson, ordered an investigation and finally the 1854 documents were found, especially a letter prepared on 21 September 1854 at the Armidale Police Office. The Curator ordered that the Cameron family be urgently advised to engage a Supreme Court Solicitor as only the Supreme Court could release the Estate. Two wealthy squatters, John Connal of Ingelba and John Fletcher of Walcha, handed over a Bond of £400 to the Supreme Court. It would have been a very expensive business for the dirt poor Camerons.

Prompted by Mr Turtle, I wrote to the Armidale Family History Group and was given copies of the brief newspaper reports of the murder in 1854. I went to the State Library in Adelaide in December 2007 and extracted the extensive August 1854 Murder Trial report from *The Sydney Morning Herald* on microfilm. In February 2008 the Armidale FHG provided me with a copy of a longer and slightly different Murder Trial report from the *Maitland Mercury*.

The following is a list of enigmatic Alexander Camerons recorded in NSW and Van Diemen's Land before and after 4 July 1836:

Date	Details and source
28 Dec 1820	Alexander Cameron convict, convicted Glasgow, arrived 1820 per <i>Asia</i> (Convict Records NSW)
1822	Alexander Cameron 'came free' (NSW Muster)
19 Oct 1822	Alexander Cameron arrived in Hobart from England on <i>Clydesdale</i> (<i>Hobart Town Gazette</i>)
6 Dec 1823	<i>Brutus</i> ship steward Alexander Cameron signed Petition handed to Governor Brisbane
29 Oct 1832	Alexander Cameron arrived on migrant ship <i>Minerva</i>
26 May 1834	Alexander Cameron paid Impounding Area for Stray Animals at Port Macquarie (Colonial Secretary's Correspondence)
25 Sep 1834	Alexander Cameron rewarded in VDL for helping capture bushrangers (<i>Launceston Advertiser</i>)
14 July 1835	Alexander Cameron articulated seaman of the <i>Africaine</i> , Hobart (newspaper via Trove)
8 Dec 1835	Alexander Cameron (<i>Colonial Times, Hobart</i>)
29 Dec 1838	Alexander Cameron signed petition in Port Macquarie NSW (ancestry.com.au)

Alexander Cameron's origin remains unknown. When he married on 4 July 1836 he claimed to be 29 and at the Murder Trial in Maitland in 1854 his age was given as 44, so he was born around 1807 or 1810. No document has been located which states where he was born, his parents' names or when he arrived in Australia. After 30 years of research by many people I have that *oh-so-close* feeling there is an undiscovered document somewhere that will enlighten us. But where is it?

Sources - ancestry.com.au
 Cameron Genealogies www.clan-cameron.org.au/index.php
 Moore, Violet, Records of the Family of Cameron 1807-1987, Taree NSW, 1987
 NSW BDM Indexes and certificates
 NSW newspapers
 State Records NSW
 Trove <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>
 Mr N.D. Cameron – ncameron@vtown.com.au

Submitted by Eileen Cameron, member of Whitsunday Family History Group

PROSERPINE GUARDIAN - ON THIS DAY - 1956

January 13 - Splendid Rain: Splendid rain fell in the district last weekend, just what the district wanted. Kelsey Creek received eight inches and Conway 784 points. All areas had good downpours, the lowest registration reported being 254 points at Bloomsbury.

More Tourists: The tourist traffic still is increasing, according to local reports. Island resorts were booked out over the holiday period and accommodation is still scarce in most cases. At this time last year the rush had subsided.

Street Bumps: Motorists have to be wary in Main Street after the heavy rain. The seal was broken at every intersection a week or so ago, to lay the water mains. Although filled in, the downpour caused the filling to sink, causing a nasty jolt for the unwary motorist.

Paid Off: Owing to the heavy rain Shire works have been curtailed, with the result that 22 men were paid off on Thursday. Only sufficient staff remain to carry out necessary work and handle plant and machinery.

January 20 - High Level Bridge: The Chamber of Commerce is to write to the Shire Council in reference to the possibility of a high level bridge across the Proserpine River. Speaking on the matter at the Chamber meeting Mr Arthur Dobbins claimed it needed only a few inches of rain to make the present low level bridge uncrossable. Cr E.H. Gray, who was at the meeting, said the matter had been brought to the notice of the engineer, but Main Roads felt the present bridge still had a few years life left in it yet.

Rain Continues: The wet season has arrived with rain continuing this week, when 472 points fell. This brought the total for the year so far to over 16 inches.

Old Estimates: Estimates for the loan to bitumen town streets were prepared seven years ago and funds are now insufficient. The Works Committee has recommended deleting from the program the widening of Marathon Street, resealing Herbert Street, portion of Taylor Street and widening Mill Street.

January 27 - Plane Delayed: A plane was held for more than two hours at the Proserpine aerodrome last Friday, while tourist launches battled heavy seas to bring southern tourists to the mainland to catch the plane. Due to leave at 2.40 pm, the plane did not get away until 5.00 pm and then had to make an unscheduled stop at Rockhampton, to drop passengers who had missed an earlier plane.

Resorts Pounded: The worst weather for years pounded the island tourist resorts last week. Mr Wally Bauer said seas were too rough to embark tourists from the jetty at South Molle. Luggage was ferried across to the more sheltered Oyster Bay and tourists trekked across to board in calmer waters.

Olympic Torch: Thirty-three Proserpine runners have volunteered to carry the Olympic Torch on to Yalbaroo, after it arrives in Proserpine, at 1.45 pm on November 16. The torch, which was lit in Rome this week, already has begun its long run to the Melbourne Olympics.

Rainfall: Our heavy wet continues, 609 points being registered in Proserpine this week. The total for the year has reached 2423 points, more than two feet of rain.

Turtles Hatch: Seven weeks ago turtles invaded the beach at South Molle in search of hatching grounds. Undaunted by many interested tourists, they went ahead and laid their eggs. A protection fence was built around the area and this week a tourist noticed the sand moving and soon the beach became alive with baby turtles heading for the water.

February 3 - Thirty-six escape: Thirty-six passengers in Bob Filby's bus had a miraculous escape from drowning or serious injury when the bus was swept off the flooded Myrtle Creek causeway on Tuesday afternoon. The bus was crossing in two feet of water and luckily had crossed the main portion of the causeway when it went over the edge. Fortunately it landed upright and with about two feet of the vehicle above water, passengers scrambled out of the door and windows. However all but the strongest swimmers had to cling to the bus to save themselves from being swept away. All luggage was waterlogged, but saved. The flood was rising, but a Council grader hauled the bus to safety before it was submerged completely.

Laneway: Shire Councillors are arranging a meeting with landholders concerned, regarding a proposed laneway from Mill Street to Chapman Street. This will be a 33 ft wide lane, from Main Street at the end of Mill Street, to the rear of the Prince of Wales Hotel, and then east to Chapman Street.

Heavy Rain: During January more than 28 inches of rain fell in Proserpine, 2821 points. This compares with an average of only 1539 points over the last 20 years.

Markers Wanted: The bus accident at Myrtle Creek has renewed the demand for road markers during floods at this crossing. When the crossing is in high flood the whole area is just a sheet of flowing water, with no sign of where the road is.

Schools Re-open: The District schools have re-opened, but owing to the floods attendance was reduced. Two town school teachers, living at Cannonvale, have been unable to get to work. Thirty-three new preps and twenty sub-juniors have enrolled at the Rural School, while twenty youngsters have commenced at St Catherine's Convent School.

February 10 - Drome Takeover: A further request has been made by the Shire Council for the Department of Civil Aviation to take over the Proserpine aerodrome. At the last Council meeting Crs. R. Staniland and a.W. Johnstone moved the Federal member be approached to support the request.

Fair Rent: Mr George Benjamin Klumpp, owner, has applied to the Fair Rents Court to have the rent of a house in Faust Street determined. Such rent was set at one pound, eleven shillings and sixpence per week.

Crossings: At the last Council meeting Cr. A. Cantamessa drew attention to the state of the mill tramway crossings at Foxdale and Strathdickie, with a request for the mill to be directed to bring these up to standard.

Loan Programme: A special meeting of the Shire Council decided on a loan programme for the 1956/57 year totaling 84,000 pounds. Chief item in the programme is 20,000 pounds for the Proserpine Water Supply, followed by 15,000 pounds for rural roads and 10,000 pounds to extend the electricity supply to Cannonvale and Airlie Beach.

February 17 - Preparing for Show: Preparations for the 1956 Proserpine Show were made at Wednesday night's meeting of the Show Committee. The Secretary, Mr C.G. Mazlin advised the P.M.G. Department is ready to carry out

work regarding a permanent phone at the Showgrounds. A working bee will be arranged, to carry out work required for the installation.

No Diving: Sgt. R.E. Horsford of the Proserpine Police has asked parents to restrain their children from diving into the flooded Proserpine River from Shephard's Bridge. They are using the bridge as a diving platform, causing a nuisance to traffic, apart from risking an accident in the flood waters.

Drome Loss: Although serving the district well, the Proserpine aerodrome is showing a loss, according to figures presented at the last Council meeting. These showed that for the first six months of the financial year, receipts totalled 1,597 pounds, while expenditure amount to 2,764 pounds, a deficit of 1,167 pounds. The Council is trying for a debenture load of 3,500 pounds which, together with a subsidy of 3,500 pounds, would be sufficient to bitumen seal the two strips and taxi-ways. If this is done it is understood Trans Australia Airlines and Ansett Airways would bring in Convair aircraft and increase passengers through the airport.

Watches Forgotten: Have you forgotten that you left your watch for repairs at Nolen's Watch Centre? Nolen's have dozens of uncollected watches lying as long as 18 months in the watch shop. Would owners please call as soon as possible and collect same. Watches need to be continually wound up, but we have so many repaired watches in stock that we simply are unable to keep all of them wound and going.

Problems in the Wet: The Health Inspector, Mr B.J. Barry, has reported problems arising from the wet weather. For some time it has not been possible to tidy up and cover the rubbish dump in Anzac Road, while there is difficulty in burying the nightsoil at the depot. However, considering the conditions, the nightsoil contractor is doing a fairly satisfactory job in this regards.

Real Estate: Two bedroom house, Main Street, Proserpine, ¼ mile from centre of town. Good water supply. Only 950 pounds. Also small, freehold dwelling at Cannon Valley only 460 pounds on 100 pounds deposit. See DOBBOS.

Mud Crabs: Alive, 3 pounds per dozen, on rail at Bowen. Try a dozen. 1 only rail the best. C.K. Hurst, 1 William Street, Bowen.

February 24 - River Bridge: The Chamber of Commerce has been advised by the Shire Council that, in the opinion of Main Roads, a new, high level bridge across the Proserpine River is not necessary for some years to come, as the present bridge has been strengthened considerably. The Chamber disputes this decision and will take the matter up with the local Member, Mr Lloyd Roberts. Mr Bob Staniland pointed out the present bridge is 35 years old and because of its construction, is a menace to farms on the river banks.

Street Names: To erect street names in Proserpine would cost 400 pounds, according to estimates received at the last Council meeting. As only 300 pounds had been allowed in the budget for this work the Shire Clerk, Mr T.H. Farr, recommended only one third of the street name to be erected at this time, leaving out smaller streets. Cr R. Staniland favoured doing all the streets. Mr Farr said there were more urgent work to be done than putting up street names. He suggested spending only 100 pounds on the streets and using the balance for other work. Cr E. Gray said country people needed roads to get to the streets and it was decided to spend only 100 pounds on street names.

Civic Centre: An estimate of 29,240 pounds has been received by the Shire Council for the construction of a new civic centre. Plans for the building include Council Chambers, Shire Hall, library and shop. Plans and estimates have been tabled for a month, for consideration and display

Water Supply: From enquiries it appears the proposed water supply for Proserpine will come from bores on the river. The general opinion is that this supply will be sufficient for the needs of the town. Mr E.O. Dray has indicated he is prepared to give half a chain of land, from Faust Street to the river bank, to the Council, to allow a pipe line to be laid to the bores.

No Second Doctor: The Department of Health has advised the Shire Council the appointment of a second doctor to the Proserpine hospital is not possible, as there are western towns without any doctor.

March 2 - Street Move: Mr G.H. Edwards (Faust Street) submitted a proposal to last week's Council meeting for the closure of Doherty Street and its inclusion in property owned by him, in exchange for a strip of land half a chain in width, on the Eastern side of his property, he to bear the cost of the survey. Mr Edwards claimed the Dodd Street drainage would be much improved if this was done. Crs Staniland and Cantamessa moved no objection be made to the proposal, providing Mr Edwards met all costs and owners of the adjoining farm, Messrs Dray & Sons agreed.

Hayman School: The member for Whitsunday, Mr Lloyd Roberts has been informed by the Director General of Education that approval has been given for a school on Hayman Island.

March 9 - Cyclone Agnes Batters: Proserpine and district suffered the worst cyclone for 38 years on Monday night, when Cyclone "Agnes" struck about 11 pm and raged for the next nine and a half hours. The barometer reading was 28.6 inches at daylight, rising to 28.7 by 9 am, reported to be the lowest Proserpine reading for 30 years. A private barometer registered 28.4 inches at 2.30 am. Many homes were damaged extensively, the worst being the Humphries house and that of Bill Moule, Conway, and Stan Simpson, of Faust Street, which was wrecked. Mr and Mrs Simpson are sheltering presently at the home of Mr and Mrs Nev Lewis, Telia Street.

Crop Smashed: Badly smashed and flattened was the cane crop, the Pindar variety suffering most, with tops blown off. There is an estimated loss of about 36,000 tons of cane.

Islands Pounded: The island resorts took a pounding, with a 26 ft launch sunk at the Hayman Jetty. No risks were taken with the resort's top boats the *Mirimar* and *Jane*, these being moved to Shute Harbour at the first warning of the big blow. Here they rode out the cyclone in safety. Mr Wally Bauer says South Molle looked 'like a battlefield without bodies' the morning after the cyclone. The resort's boat, the *Crest*, also sheltered at Shute Harbour.

Town Damage: There was much general damage in Proserpine, 24 outhouses being blown away and windmills, not securely anchored, were blown over, the one at the

Showgrounds being wrecked. The Show ticket office was blown yards off its foundations.

Appeal: The Queensland Cane Growers Council, now meeting in Brisbane, has appealed to the Prime Minister, Mr Menzies and the Premier, Mr Gair, to confer and arrange for an immediate of building materials to the Proserpine area.

Flooded: The district remains flooded after cyclonic rain early this week. Traffic is cut on most roads while flood water from the river has run into the Ambulance Centre. Rainfall this week totaled 758 points and the total so far for 1956 has reached 62.51 inches. *(This is about 1560 mm in today's measurements. Ed. 1997).*

March 23 - Tourist Bungalows: South Molle Resort, home of the well known Bauer family, was en fete last Saturday for the official opening of four new bungalows, by the Minister for Mines and Immigration, the Hon. C.G. McCathie. It was a gay and colourful occasion, with the minister supported by Mr E.E. Ferguson, Director of the Queensland Tourist Bureau. Mr McCathie congratulated the Bauer brothers, Norrie, Owen and Wally for their enterprise and faith in the tourist industry. In addition to crowds from the mainland, boats from neighbouring tourist resorts brought many to join in the celebrations.

Relief Donation: A motion for the granting of 1,000 pounds to Proserpine, as cyclone and flood relief, was carried unanimously at the annual conference of the Cane Growers Council, in Brisbane last week.

March 29 - River Break: After continuous rain during the week the river broke its banks about two miles upstream from Shepherd Bridge and surged through the Foxdale residential and farming area. Farmers in this locality are frightened the river may change its course through this break, unless something is done. For the week 19 inches and 36 points were registered, bringing the three months tally for January, February and March to 9263 points, the second highest on record for this period. The highest was two years ago, in 1954, when 9533 points were recorded for the three months.

Unpleasant Trip: Mr and Mrs Henry Rowe, and son Alan, have returned overland after an unpleasant trip from Brisbane. Mr Rowe went south to pick up a new 5 ton Bedford truck for the Shire Council, but struck trouble all the way home, with continual rain, mud and flooded creeks. It took four days to reach Mackay, where the truck has been left, to be collected later.

Accommodation: The Chamber of Commerce continues to press for more hotel accommodation in Proserpine. At the last meeting the chairman, Mr E.H. Gray, said a file should be kept of facts and figures relating to people unable to find accommodation, these to be used when presenting a case for more hotels in the town.