

Whitsunday Family History Group Inc

"BRANCHING OUT"

March 2024



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 Uhe	
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.

From The President

We have started 2024 with our AGM. Thank you to all the members who attended. Our Committee is almost the same as last year, with Barbara Uhe now the Minute Secretary, as well as Vice President.

Our first Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings is set for 20 April. Linda is busy organizing the roster for members to help. This is an important fundraiser for our group. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us – not too hot, not too windy and no rain!

Welcome to our new members. I hope you enjoy your research and utilize the library facilities.

A reminder for Members to submit a Member's Interest List as you may find someone, somewhere may also be researching the same family members as you.

This journal is all about Proserpine, from the early days. It is interesting to read how Proserpine has evolved over the years. I hope you enjoy the read. Regards *Leah*

PROSERPINE

An Historical Review and Current Development

Compiled by T.H. FARR

Issued by Proserpine Shire Council

July, 1967

SHIRE OF PROSERPINE - EARLY HISTORY

Civic Centre

The hub of the administration of Proserpine is the modern Civic Centre in Main Street. To mark Queensland Centenary year of 1960, the Council undertook the construction of the Civic Centre which comprises Administration Building, Maternal & Child Welfare, Library, Kindergarten and small Park. Total cost was £34,500.

Local Authority Statistics

Area: 1020 square miles. (The four cattle stations 188 square miles, west of the Coastal Range (Proserpine, Hecate, Cattlevale and Ameliavale) previously in the Bowen Shire Area, were transferred to the Proserpine Shire on 28th May, 1955. Hillrise Station (36 ½ square miles) on the Andromache River was transferred from the Pioneer Shire on 10th March, 1965).

Population: 6254 (Proserpine 2948)

Dwellings: 1200

Rating: Rating Valuation \$4,072,871 (1966-67)
General Rates levied \$203,334 (1966-67)
Water Rates levied \$18,081

Value of Primary Production 30.6.65: Agricultural, Dairying £2,576,000;
Pastoral £165,000; Mining, Forestry, Fishing £20,000.

No. of Livestock: Beef Cattle 17,509; Dairy Cattle 622.

Hospital (Public): General Beds 42; Maternity Beds 11.

Annual Average Rainfall: 75 inches.

Latitude 20 deg. 24 min South; Longitude 148 deg. 35 min East.

Sea Approach

It was from the sea that white men first viewed the Proserpine District. Captain James Cook reached this part of the Queensland Coast early in June, 1770. On 3rd June of that year, he discovered and named Repulse Bay and Cape Conway. It appears that the name Repulse Bay was chosen because the land discovered lay across what had been taken for 'an opening between the Main and the Islands' repulsed him. Of the bay, Cook wrote

“Everywhere safe anchoring, and, I believe, was it properly examined, there would be found some good harbours in it...”

The next known visitor to Repulse Bay was Lieutenant Phillip Parker King in June 1819 in the survey ship **Mermaid**. King landed on one of the Repulse Isle and obtained a good view of the bay. On the beach lay a European ashen oar. Traces of natives were seen under projecting rocks.

The next recorded visit to Repulse Bay was that of H.M.S. **Fly**, under the command of Captain F.P. Blackwood, in March 1843. Professor J. Beete Jukes, the ship’s naturalist, described this part of the coast as follows:

*The tract of coast between Broad Sound and Whitsunday Passage ... differs in some respects from any part of the coast of Australia we visited. Its apparent fertility is greater, it is better supplied with fresh water and the rise and fall of tide is much greater. A solid range of hills, of a pretty uniform height, cuts off from the interior a lower undulating strip of land from five to ten miles broad, the whole of which seems to be of a high average fertility for Australia; the grass was fine, close and abundant, the timber large sizes and various in kind ... The fresh perpetual sea breeze would render the country healthy, notwithstanding the mangrove swamps. These could be avoided in choosing places of residence, for which spots 200 or 300 feet above the sea level might easily be selected ... As far as the climate is concerned, almost any tropical production might be cultivated, but I have too little confidence in the nature of the soil in any part of Australia to recommend **that** as a source of profit. If however, it should be desirable to push the settlements of New South Wales farther to the north, I think this part of the coast has greater natural advantages than any other we have seen.*

Land Approach and First Settlers

The coast country behind Repulse Bay in the Proserpine River Valley is said to have been discovered by William Kilman in 1854. He crossed the Fitzroy and followed the coast up as far as Cleveland Bay.

The Proserpine River and district were named by George Elphinstone Dalrymple, probably during the course of an overland expedition to Bowen in 1861. Dalrymple thought the area had excellent agricultural possibilities and the name Proserpine is a variant of Proserpina, the Roman name for the daughter of the Greek goddess of fertility and crops, Demeter.

Prominent geographical features of the District also attracted names from Greek mythology such as Andromache River, Mt Hector, Mt Dryander, Mt Pluto and Lethebrook.

On Dalrymple’s return journey from Bowen to Rockhampton, where he conferred with Mr J.A. Macartney, the area between the Proserpine River south to the Pioneer River, bounded

on the east by the coast for 90 miles and on the west by the coast range was taken up by Macartney and Dalrymple.

The country at the head of Repulse Bay was taken up as Proserpine Creek by Daniel Ralph Emmerson, on 11th April, 1861. In April 1863, a notification to the effect that Emmerson had been licensed to occupy for pastoral purposes 80 square miles of country as the Proserpine Creek run appeared in the 'Government Gazette'. Emmerson grazed horses and cattle and, when the property was sold to Alec Matthews about 1890, it was stocked with 8,000 head of cattle and 200 head of horses. However, none of the coast runs proved very profitable.

The earliest settlement – agriculturally – dates back to 1872. At that time, the Proserpine area was encircled by the original cattle stations of Bromby Park (now Goorganga), Bloomsbury (the Macartneys), Proserpine Station and Amelia Vale (the Emmerson family), Cattle Vale (the McDonalds), Collingvale (James Collins), and Myrtlebrook (the Bradleys).

Bromby Park was first settled by Messrs Lascelles, Dangar and Bode who crossed the O'Connell River with their cattle and established a homestead near where Thoopara Rail Siding is situated, after various encounters with the blacks. These blacks later became friendly and warned the party of the 'Goorganga' plains, meaning a place of floods and crocodiles.

Inside these vast cattle areas were the centrally situated rich virgin agricultural lands of Proserpine, through which the river flowed. Along the banks of the river heavy, densely timbered scrubs extended over a large portion. In one place standing scrub was out to the roadway in Faust Street, below the mill and came out at the present Hospital extending as far as Glen Isla. There were also large areas of scrub at Strathdickie, Mt Julian, Mt Marlow, Cannon Valley, Preston and Conway. Proserpine town had giant Blue Gums and Moreton Bay Ash extending away to Glen Isla and Breadalbane. Behind the town and along the railway it was mostly half scrub interspersed with Mahogany, Ti-tree and Moreton Bay Ash.

The first land selected and surveyed was Portion 193, which comprised all the land between the River and Main Street, and extended from Faust's corner to Glen Isla. This 640 acre selection was taken up in 1872 by Delahunty at a cost of £157, but was forfeited in 1879. O'Connell, a surveyor, re-selected it in 1879 at 5 s. per acre and in 1896 it was transferred to the Glen Isla Sugar Co., of Melbourne. Portion 222 (628 acres) extending from the Railway corner to Glen Isla on the south side of Main Street was selected by R. Briggs for £160 in 1873 and forfeited in 1876. O'Connell also acquired 1,000 acres at Cannon Valley and with the Glen Isla property, he began the first ploughing and farming in Proserpine with J.G. Brown as his partner. Several other selections were taken up in the 1870's or early 1880's but some were abandoned or made into Freeholds.

In 1884, Ben Morgan, first mate on Rooney's (Townsville) timber steamer, rowed ashore at Cannon Valley and landed two young Englishmen, William and John Compton and their carpenters' outfits. They were to build a house for O'Connell at Cannon Valley, but such yarns had been told to them about tigers and alligators, that they were 'scared stiff' and when the ship returned from the Proserpine River with cedar logs via Cannon Valley, the Compton Brothers were still on the beach and begged to be taken back on the boat – no bush for them! However, they were not deterred for long. We find their names amongst those who settled here in the late 1880's. The listed pioneers were:

S. & J. Lott	1880	R. Guskie	
I. Fox	1882	J. Gordon	
S. Setter		A. Banks	
Thos. Dibben		Nicol Bros.	
P. Neilson	1884	Hinschen Bros	
C. Hyden		James Reid	
C. Jensen		Peter Jensen	
W. & J. Compton		John McLean	
Hess Bros.	1887	C. Munro	
Jas. Morrison		Jas. Capps	
	1891	J. Taylor	
H.W. Holmes	1892	James Nielson Surrey	
J. Phaff	1893	Houston	
R. Sexton		Jas. Bracken	
J. Stanbury		Renwick	1895
Geo. & Gideon Pott		Fuller	
		Webster	
John Brown		E. Furminger	
Luxmore Bros.		W. Barwood	
	1894	Fuljames Bros.	
H.C. Sterry		J. & C. Busuttin	
H.A. Findlay	1897		
J. McPherson		Grosskreutz	
	1886	Tom Atkinson	
T. Standerline		F. Dray	
	1888	J. Cooper	
R. Carson	1894	Joe Chapman	
F. Leggets			

From 1892 to 1902, dates are uncertain:

Tom Webb	Chad O'Neill
Walter Daniels	E. & J. Leet
Gus Hoppe	G. Shaw
Tom Maloney	W. Handley
Humphrey	Waite Bros.
Jorgensen	Bode
Barnett	Jochheims
Wagner	C. & J. Faust
Sam Stevens	J. Jupp
Paddy McGuire	Huntzen

Mr H.A. Findlay records that in 1887, when he first knew the district, the area where Proserpine now stands was covered with bloodwood, gum trees and blady grass and there were hundreds of kangaroos and pigs. There were only four houses in the vicinity.

Prior to 1892, the settlers subsisted chiefly on what they themselves grew and on small earnings from timber-getting and small fencing jobs on the surrounding stations. Isaac Fox, Thomas Dibben, Peter Nielson and C. Hyden built up fairly large herds of cattle. The settlers, therefore, had meat, butter, milk, farm crops and home-made preserves. Luxuries like flour, tea and sugar were brought from Bowen by pack horse, bullock team or boat.

During the period 1876 to 1891, many Germans, Danes and Swedes settled in North Queensland, particularly around Bowen and Proserpine.

Continued next issue

PROSERPINE GUARDIAN - As Time Rolls By - 1957

Friday, June 7 - Crushing Deferred: The 1957 crushing, which was to have begun on Monday this week, has been deferred until next Monday, owing to heavy rain in the district. Cannon Valley registered four inches last week and harvesting there is impossible. It's the same at Conway, where over five inches fell.

Grand Theatre: The Grand Theatre, in Main Street, which has served several proprietors and provided silent and talkie films plus much of the town's entertainment, is to be replaced with a new theatre costing £30,000. The new theatre will accommodate about 800, with a supper room for 240. It will be fitted with new cinemascope equipment. The original building on this site was the Alexandra Hall, built by the late Mrs Agnes O'Toole in 1902.

Cannonvale Court: A progressive tennis club has opened a new concrete court at Cannonvale, on land generously donated by Mr Bill Thorogood. The opening was performed by Mr A.J. Dobbins, assisted by the president of the tennis association, Mr Percy Monaghan. An American tennis tournament was held after the opening, this being won by Jack Murphy and Dot Stagg.

Correspondence: Sir, Residents of Cannon Valley have to sign a guarantee of £50 for the new power line down to the beach, but Cannonvale residents have to sign for £25 only. I cannot see me using twice the power of a Cannonvale resident. We all should be on £25. As there is no power to spare in Mackay at present, how will the Board fare if all consumers between Mackay and Cannonvale put in electric stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, etc.? Yours, *"Cannon Valley Resident."*

Sir, Do readers know Proserpine is the only town the world so named? I made an enquiry through Odhams Press Ltd., London, and that was their reply. Yours, *F.R. Barr, Foxdale Road.*

Friday, June 14 - **New Airliner:** Ansett's new airliner, the Convair 440 Metropolitan is scheduled to arrive in Proserpine on June 23. Carrying 52 passengers with a crew of five – a Captain, Flight Officer and three Hostesses – the Convair offers a new standard of luxury in air travel. It will fly daily to Proserpine from Melbourne, calling at Sydney and Brisbane on the way. There will be a DC3 feeder service daily between Proserpine and Cairns. As the Mackay airport cannot accommodate the Convair, a free taxi service will operate between Mackay and Proserpine.

Crushing Delayed: Due to continued rain and poor cane supply, the mill has been working broken shifts so far, since starting last week. This week only 7,000 tons have been handled, with a CCS of 12.

Resorts Getting Together: There will be a meeting of Whitsunday tourists resorts on Hayman Island on Saturday, June 22, to discuss plans for the future. These will include establishing the history of the Whitsunday Islands; initiating an annual festival; collecting advertising material as a group; formulating a policy on visiting launches, and having the area declared a port rather than open sea, with Shute Harbour as the central port.

Friday, June 21 - **Drome Opening:** The opening of the new airstrip and terminal at the Proserpine airport will take place on Sunday afternoon and will be shown on television in Sydney and Melbourne on Monday night. The attendance will include about 70 officials of Ansett Airways, members of the House of Representatives and the local member, Mr Lloyd Roberts. Mr Reginald Ansett, the head of the airline, is expected to arrive in the new Convair aircraft.

Viscount Aircraft: From next Tuesday, Trans Australia Airlines will run a Vickers Viscount airline service on Tuesdays and Fridays, connecting Proserpine to Brisbane and Sydney. The Viscount will carry 44 passengers and the Proserpine agent for TAA, Mr George Porter is confident the new service will prove popular.

Bonus Increase: The bonus payment on the 1956 cane crop has been increased from 1/6 to 2/- per ton. Mr Douglas Debney, Chairman of the mill directors, says the increase came about because the final price of No. 1 Pool sugar was higher than expected.

Friday, June 28 - **New Airstrip, Terminal Opened:** Senator Ian Wood, Mackay, performed the official opening of the new airstrip and terminal at the Proserpine aerodrome last Sunday. A crowd of about 2,500 attended, including visitors from adjacent towns. Ansett Transport Industries and the Proserpine Shire Council were responsible for the improvements which cost about £36,000.

In 1951 Mr C.W. Davidson M.P. officially opened the Proserpine aerodrome, a two way strip on an iron sandstone strip, about eight miles from Proserpine. The cost then was slightly more than £20,000.

Mr R.M. Ansett was present for last Sunday's opening, though he had only returned from America the previous day. He left Melbourne at 7.45 am last Sunday to be present for the opening later in the day.

TAA to Compete: Mr L.L. McKenzie, Queensland Manager of Trans Australia Airlines, says TAA, having pioneered the Proserpine airport, intends to compete with Ansett. By early 1959 TAA will be operating pressurized Turbo Prop Fokker Friendship aircraft throughout Queensland.

New Town: An article in the 'Courier Mail', sponsored by a lecturer at the Queensland University, Mr Morris Juppenlatz states: *"In virgin country on the coast, 60 miles north of Mackay, a thriving sub-tropical town of 60,000 people could be built in three years."* From photos in the article the Chamber of Commerce feels Mr Juppenlatz was speaking of Shute Harbour and has decided to write to him expressing appreciation of his idea.

Friday, July 12 - Helicopter Lands: The Navy helicopter from HMAS Melbourne landed at the Sports Reserve last Saturday morning, to collect mail. A large crowd gathered for the event. Besides mail, newspapers and two gallons of fresh milk were picked up. As the aircraft departed the pilot gave a demonstration of its capabilities and a crew member took aerial pictures of the crowd and Main Street.

The Crushing: For the week to last Saturday the mill crushed 14,226 tons, at an average CCS of 13.04. This brought the seasonal tonnage to 46,685 and the CCS to 12.52.

Friday, July 19 - Population 200,000!!! Mr M. Juppenlatz, who is associated with the Department of Agriculture at the University of Queensland, and who forecast an ultimate population of 60,000 at Shute Harbour, has revised this upwards, to a target of 200,000. In a letter to the Proserpine Chamber of Commerce, Mr Juppenlatz says a study be made of the Fitzroy Basin suggests the logical outlet for industries established on the coal reserves in the region was from Shute Harbour. He suggested Chamber members form a private company and have the land at Shute Harbour designated for a new town and port, raising money by public subscription. He invited Chamber representatives to visit him at St Lucia in Brisbane, to discuss the proposal. The Chamber president, Mr George Stoneham, will be in Brisbane during Exhibition Week, when it is hoped to arrange an interview with Mr Juppenlatz.

Friday, July 26 - Record Crushing: The mill crushed a weekly record tonnage last week, when 16,030 tons passed through the rollers. The hourly crushing rate of 133.3 tons also was an all time record.

New Photos Wanted: The newly formed Barrier Reef Island Association wants up to date photographs of the islands displayed to encourage tourists. Chairman of the Association, Mr Wally Bauer says photos presently displayed in railway carriages were taken many years ago and did not show the vast improvements made at resorts in recent years.

Shute Donation: Mr A.J. Dobbins has promised a donation of £100 towards the grading of a track to Shute Harbour. The idea is to grade a track from Jubilee Pocket to the harbour as the first step to opening up the area. Mr Dobbins' offer has been made to the Proserpine & Whitsunday Islands Tourist Association and it is hoped other business people, organisations and residents will support the idea.

Jetty Tenders: Tenders are invited and will be received up to Noon, August 23, 1957 for the construction of a jetty at South Molle Island. All material shall be supplied on the site by the Shire Council. T.H. Farr, Shire Clerk.

Friday, August 2 - **Rates Down:** A finance report, presented to the Council at its last meeting by the Shire Clerk, Mr T.H. Farr, indicated the General Rate of 1957/58 is likely to be 2/3 ½ d in the pound, down 1 d on last year's rating. There also could be a reduction on the Cleansing Rate, down £1/8/- in Proserpine and £4/7/6 in Cannonvale and Airlie.

Island Jetty: A tender by Mr H. Altmann of £1,500 for transporting material from Shingley Beach to South Molle for the construction of a jetty at that resort, was recommended by Department of Harbours & Marine and accepted by the Shire Council. Deck spikes for the jetty are to be supplied by John Reid & Nephews Pty Ltd, at £6/10/- per cwt, f.o.b. Brisbane.

Shute Development: In a further statement on development at Shute Harbour, Mr Juppenlatz has advised the Chamber of Commerce that a Mr Edwin B. Niven of New York, has indicated his interest in extracting Blair Athol coal and running it by rail to Shute Harbour. The Chamber Chairman, Mr George Stoneham, and the Shire Clerk, Mr T.H. Farr, will call on Mr Juppenlatz when visiting Brisbane next week, to discuss harbour developments.

Friday, August 9 - **Rates Levied:** A special meeting of the Shire Council has fixed the general rate for this year at 2/3 ½ in the pound on the unimproved value of all land within the Shire. The Budget provides for an estimated receipts and disbursements of £98,989 for the year.

Excessive Buying: The attention of the Bowen Hospitals Board has been drawn to the excessive purchases under hardware and crockery by the Proserpine hospital from local hardware stores. Those responsible have been reminded that purchases must not be made without an official order form being issued.

Friday, August 16 - **Record Crushing:** If the latest crop estimate is realised, the Proserpine mill should achieve a record crushing this year. The estimate now is 400,000 tons, with the mill's previous highest crushing being 385,555 tons in 1953.

Power Lines: Feed lines from the power house of the Mackay Regional Electricity Board should reach Proserpine before next year's crushing commences, to enable the switch over from the mill to MREB power before then. Extensive clearing of district power line routes around Proserpine has begun.

Friday, August 30 - **Public Lecture:** A representative cross section of residents, business people and members of the farming community attended a lecture by Mr M. Juppenlatz, in the Diggers Hall last night. After his address a number of resolutions were carried:

1. That a survey of the potential development of eastern central Queensland be undertaken with a view to facilitating migrant industries from Britain to settle in the area.
2. That the government concede the Great Barrier Reef and tourist resorts of the Whitsunday Passage are among Queensland's greatest assets and assist in the construction of a safe port at Shute Harbour and the construction of a high level platform at the Proserpine railway station.
3. That the government consider re-routing the railway from Mary Kathleen direct to Collinsville and the erection of an iron and steel mill in the vicinity.
4. That low interest, long term loans be made available for improving accommodation standards for tourists.

Mr Juppenlatz was accorded a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr Wally Bauer, of South Molle, supported by Mr Bob Filby.

Friday, September 6 - **Record Week:** Last week saw a weekly record established by the Proserpine mill, when 16,063 ton were crushed. CCS for the week was 14.2. The estimate for the year also is a record, now standing at 405,000 tons.

State of Emergency: A State of Emergency has been declared in the Proserpine mill area, which means cane cutters may cut and load cane on Saturday mornings, between 6 am and 10 am. This has been allowed, by the Industrial Court because of the record crop in the district and earlier delays owing to wet weather. The first delivery of trucks for Saturday loading has been delivered.

Friday, September 20 - **Missing Man Found:** An intense land, sea and air search ended on Wednesday with the finding of a man who had been missing since last Saturday. He was Joseph Henry Bradshaw, 46, a forestry worker who was constructing a timber road up from Brandy Creek. He became 'bushed' after he walked down to the Repulse Creek area on Saturday afternoon and was in a much exhausted state when found by Walter and Ro Jackson on Wednesday. The Jacksons were checking the lower reaches of Repulse Creek in their boat when they heard Bradshaw calling from nearby. In addition to ground parties, a helicopter from HMAS Sydney searched the area.

300th Holden: On Thursday last week Dobbos Pty Ltd had the pleasure of delivering the 300th Holden sold in Proserpine. It was delivered to Mr and Mrs W.F. Crossley, of Conway, who now are on their third Holden sedan. When handing over the sedan, Mr A.J. Dobbins presented the couple with a cheque to cover the cost of a visor for their new car.

Friday, September 27 - **Power Extension:** During the week a further 28 consumers have been connected to the electricity extension which eventually will stretch out as far as Airlie Beach. The area now being serviced extends to Yuskan's sawmill, on the Cannon Valley road. The new consumers are able to enjoy the same amenities as the townspeople, with electric irons, kettle, refrigerators, etc. Even a few electric stoves have been connected.

Modern Facility: The new toilet block at the tourist park, near the Showgrounds, offers modern amenities for tourists. Built by Mr P. Valente at a contract price of £1,920, it includes ladies and gents showers, toilet facilities and laundry. Minimum flush septic units have been installed but, until such time as water is available, use of the toilets cannot be permitted. Urinals will also be fitted when reticulated water reaches the park area.

Reticulation to Recommence: Work on the water supply scheme in Proserpine has recommenced, following the State Government offer of a further loan and subsidy. Hinschen Street work is to be finalized, and then the extension along Faust Street and streets leading off that route.

Friday, October 4 - **Planning Committee:** Although no regional town planning committee was formed at the meeting called for this purpose last week, lengthy discussion on our future took place. An outline plan was formulated, with a view to a further meeting this month. All local organisations are being asked to attend, as it is intended to follow up the proposals made by Mr M. Juppenlatz when in Proserpine.

Short Island Stay: The new owner of East Repulse Island, Mr R.H. Smith, had a short stay on his island home. He intended growing pawpaws, but lack of water prevented this. Mr Smith was taken to his island by Ro and John Jackson, with water and food supplies. A short time later Sgt. R. Horsford and Const. J. Jeppesen accompanied the Jackson Bros. back to the island to check on Mr Smith's condition, in view of his limited water. This was becoming serious so he was brought back to the mainland and now has returned home to Sydney.

Friday, October 11 - **Island Jetty:** A tender by E. Makat, for the erection of the jetty at South Molle, at a cost of £12,748 has been accepted by the Shire Council, providing the Department of Harbours & Marine allow the specified concrete piles to be substituted with wooden piles. Should the request be refused, then Mr Makat's tender of £22,689, on the original specifications, is to be accepted.

Payment Refused: The Shire Council has refused to pay the Fire Brigade a bill for £11, charged for attending a fire at the Sports Reserve. The Fire Brigade Board advised it would be prepared to remit the charge if the Council graded the back of the Board's allotment clear of grass. On a motion by Crs. Staniland and Rowe, the Council returned the account, saying it all should be remitted as the request to attend the fire was not to protect Council

property but protect private property along Ann Street. Also in view of the precept the Council already pays towards financing the Board.

Friday, October 18 - **Island Publicity:** A deputation seeking better publicity for the Whitsunday Islands, met the Minister in charge of the Tourist Bureau, Mr Ken Morris, in Brisbane last week. The deputation was led by the Member for Whitsunday, Mr Lloyd Roberts, with Messrs W. Bauer and O. Bauer (South Molle), L. Nicholson (Lindeman), H. Mountney and R.E. Brooks (Happy Bay and Palm Bay, Long Island), and C. Taylor (Orpheus).

New Cars: The Proserpine Ambulance is to borrow £1,000 from the Executive, for the purchase of two new ambulance cars. When these are purchased the Centre will be amongst the best equipped in the State. Tenders will be called for the sale of the Oldsmobile car now used as an ambulance.

Friday, October 25 - **Public Library:** The establishment of a public library in Proserpine has moved a step closer, with the Library Board in Brisbane approving building plans forwarded by the Shire Council. These were for improvements and alterations to a residence adjoining the Council Chambers, at a cost of £1,500.

Good Toll Road: The road from Airlie Beach to Shute Harbour would be a good toll road, according to the Member for Whitsunday, Mr Lloyd Roberts. He said it would cut through isolated areas and open up the country. Mr Roberts pointed out Shute Harbour already is a haven to which all launches flock to in bad weather.

Toilets Open: The new toilet block in the Anzac Road tourist park now is open, thanks to the Bowling Club. The new toilet was waiting until reticulated water reached it, but the bowlers kindly offered the use of their private supply until such time as the town pipelines reach the park.

Friday, November 1 - **School Improvement:** The member for Whitsunday, Mr Lloyd Roberts, says much has to be done to improve conditions at the Proserpine State school. Both boys and girls cannot go to the lavatories without walking through about eight inches of water. Mr Roberts said that although an area of ten acres has been set aside in Proserpine for a High School, the time has arrived for the removal of the Primary school to this site.

Airlie Blocks: Another 27 building blocks have been surveyed off at Airlie and will be put up for sale at a date to be announced. These are above the 32 blocks already sold on a leasehold basis. The government is considering amending the Land Act to enable leasehold land to be converted to freehold. If this occurs the latest blocks will be sold with the option of converting to freehold.

Welcome Rain: Falls of up to two inches of rain were recorded in the Proserpine district this week. This amount was registered by Mr C.R. Stanley, at Cannon Valley, with falls of more than an inch in other areas. Proserpine registered 74 points. The rain was welcome after several hot and dry weeks.

Shute Road: The Chamber of Commerce continues to press for the opening of a road to Shute Harbour and the harbour itself, considering the deterioration of the jetty at Abell Point.

Friday, November 22 - **Airlie Road:** Following an argument as to who built the first road to Airlie Beach, Mr Stephen Waterson claims he and Mr Bill Simmons and Mr Arthur Abell built the first car road to Airlie, along the present route. He says a previous road, over the mountain, was only a bullock track.

Power Extensions: The Electricity Board has advised it is not prepared to reduce the guaranteed required from the Cannon Valley Committee. The Board adds that guarantees are necessary but there are not many instances where guarantees are enforced, as the minimum percentage of revenue is usually obtained over the whole area.

Friday, November 29 - **Harbour Query:** In view of various Press reports regarding the future of Bowen as a port for bagged sugar, the Bowen Harbour Board is writing to the Treasurer seeking information which will clarify this matter.

Taipan Killed: A 7ft 11ins taipan was killed at Exmoor, Bloomsbury this week. Before being destroyed it struck a bull terrier which died in 23 minutes. A few days previously a steer was struck by a big snake and succumbed in an hour.

Road Risk: The Local Government Association has confirmed the Shire Council's opinion that the Council should not be deemed the owner of public roads and, as a result, would not be bound to comply with any notice the Fire Brigade Board might serve in terms of the relative sections of the Fire Brigade Acts.

Friday, December 6 - **Islands Visit:** Led by the Member for Whitsunday, Mr Lloyd Roberts, no fewer than 13 Queensland Parliamentarians and their wives will visit the Whitsunday Islands next weekend. They will leave Brisbane in a special carriage, at 6.45 pm next Friday, arriving in Proserpine at 9.30 pm on Saturday. They will overnight at the Palace Hotel and proceed to South Molle on Sunday. South Molle will be their base for a week, with launches from other islands calling there for them to visit other resorts.

Record Season: 1957 has proved a record season for the mill, which has passed the 400,000 ton mark for the first time. To mark the occasion on Tuesday, the deputy chairman of directors, Mr F.K. Johns, deputizing for the chairman, Mr Ron Camm, tipped a truck of cane from Mr C.A. Moody's farm into the carrier, to bring up the 400,000 ton mark. The crushing is expected to end early next week, with a total of 410,000 tons. This will be worth about £2,500,000 to the district.

New Venture: Mr Harry Muller is nearing the completion of his new venture, the 'Avalon Ova-Nite Motel' in Herbert Street. He has raised his large residence and converted it into first class 'bed & breakfast' accommodation, for 25 people. Later he hopes to extend the business to accommodate 50. Hot and cold showers will be available and furniture will include inner spring mattresses for the comfort of travellers.

Municipal Library: Work has commenced on alterations to the building at 85 Main Street, which ultimately will be the new Municipal Library of Proserpine. The building formerly was the property of Mr J. Foxlee. It is hoped to open the library next month, with the transfer of books from the School of Arts and the addition of further books from the Public Library in Brisbane.

Friday, December 20 - **Welcome Signs:** A joint meeting between representatives of the Shire Council, Chamber of Commerce and the Tourist Development Association has decided on 'Welcome to Proserpine' signs on the highway.

Record Crushing: The 1957 crushing has ended with a record figure of 408,323 tons, with an average CCS of 14.54. The directors have arranged for a payment of another 4/- per ton peak cane to be paid on January 10.

Friday, December 24 - **Bank's 50 Years:** This month the Bank of New South Wales celebrated 50 years of service to Proserpine and district. The bank was opened here on December 9, 1907, by Mr P.E. Hodge, who came from Bowen for this purpose. The first permanent manager in Proserpine was Mr John Barton, whose son Mr J.A. Barton, born in Proserpine, is now Bank of NSW Inspector for Queensland.

New State: The 'New State for North Queensland' movement has asked the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a public meeting in Proserpine on this matter, with the movement supplying a speaker. The movement's letter indicated the No.2 Branch of the Proserpine Mill Suppliers Association had expressed interest in a new state for the north. However the Chamber decided the time is not ripe for such a meeting but it will be considered again at the April meeting.