

Mill Point Settlement - ELANDA POINT

Between 1869 and 1892 the Mill Point Settlement boasted a "State of the art" Timber milling operation and supported a small township which rivaled Tewantin in size.

1854 - The area was explored by Lt. John O'Connell Bligh, then officer in charge of Native Police for the Wide Bay District.

1863 - An unauthorized run called "Cootharaba" was recorded.

1864 - Noosa River first opened to timbergetters.

1866 - Timber reserves in the area were explored by William Pettigrew.

1969 - Portion 1, Parish of Noosa, an area of 5678 acres of second class pastoral, was selected in the names of A.F. Luya and S. McGhie. Together with F.G. Goodchap and J. Woodburn they began construction of a sawmill, predominantly handling Kauri pine. The timber was sourced solely from the Company's selected forest areas. The accompanying settlement was a company enterprise during its whole existence.

1873 - The Company bought SS "Culgoa", an ex Murray River paddle steamer for the Tewantin - Brisbane run. The "Black Swan" and "Elandra" operated on the Noosa River.

1873 - Tuesday, July 29 at 8:30 a.m. 5 men were fatally injured when a boiler exploded in the Sawmill. It was reported the explosion was heard three miles away. Every boiler in the colony was to be fitted with a safety valve after an inquiry into the accident.

1874 - A school opened, the teacher being the only external service in the settlement.

1878 - An iron railed tramway replaced the existing wooden tramway, the machinery being hauled by horses.

1891 - The "Calgoa" wrecked on the Noosa Bar.

1892 - The closure of the mill.

Although there are few obvious remains at Elanda Point, much physical evidence still exists. The site was the subject of a Conservation Plan prepared for the Dept. Of Environment & Heritage in 1991 (Hibbard & Crosby).

The significance of the site is based on its interpretive themes and historical and social values. It has the potential to demonstrate the distinctive way of life of an early "one enterprise" township. Its mill was one of the most modern and innovative in Australia, and the site can be interpreted as a complete system comprising the hinterland and township. The tramway system and more recent dairying history are also of educational value.

Visible remains from the dairy farm period following closure of the mill include, among others, the brick chimney and footings of a cottage.

1975 - National Parks acquire the Mill Point site.